THE TIMES

30p

No. 65,459 TUESDAY DECEMBER 26 1995 RK

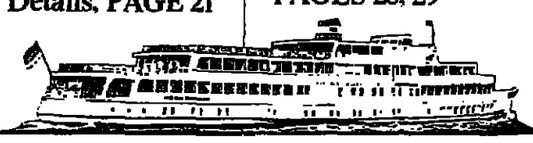


Win £5,000 of Lottery tickets
1,000 each for five runners-up
Details, PAGE 28



Bargain winter breaks
Take a three-day family trip to France for only £39
Special offer, P27

WIN
A £2,000 river cruise through Europe
Details, PAGE 21



SALES GUIDE
Where the bargains are
PAGES 28, 29

Men and women of the year
The best and worst of 1995
PAGES 12, 13



Carey tells of pain of royal break-up

Family values are message for Christmas

BY ALAN HAMILTON, STEPHEN FARRELL AND RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Archbishop of Canterbury spoke of the "pain" suffered by the Prince and Princess of Wales in his Christmas sermon yesterday as the Queen led a show of family solidarity at Sandringham.

In his address to the congregation at Canterbury Cathedral, Dr George Carey said: "Families have been very much in the news in recent weeks. Over the last few days the Prince and Princess of Wales, together with the children, have been at the forefront of our prayers as we have sensed afresh some of the pain they carry."

The story of the nativity was the story of "a nuclear family if ever there was one, a holy family," Dr Carey said. "The values nourished in good families are not for hoarding in private foxholes but are there to be shared with the wider society. If we fail as a society to show all people that we care about them and that we are committed to them, we are failing to obey God's commandment to love our neighbours as ourselves."

He supported the Lord Chancellor's proposals to reform the divorce laws, saying: "I believe it is necessary to turn our backs on the quickie attitude to divorce." The emphasis should be on mediation so couples could reflect on what they were doing "but also for the sake of the children".

He also said that those who work too hard will pay a price in terms of relationships and family life. "It is easy to see why, for the sake of their families and to keep their jobs, people are working longer hours — but we should be in no doubt that there will be a price to pay in terms of relationships and family life."

The Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume, also reflected on the theme and issued a warning that when family life based on a stable marriage is not the norm, then society disintegrates.

"No institution is more important than the family, no relationship more precious than that between husband and wife. The civilisation of love is built upon these two — marriage and the family," he said in his sermon at Westminster Cathedral.

The Royal Family made the traditional Christmas Day appearance at morning service at Sandringham yesterday with the Princess of Wales a notable exception. She was last seen leaving Kensington Palace on Christmas Eve but had been expected to spend the day alone at the palace.

> "She believes, and makes us believe, that duty must overcome selfishness. Send her victorious"
>
> *Libby Purves on the Queen*
> *Page 14*

After a difficult six weeks which began with the Princess's *Panorama* interview, the Royal Family looked happy and relaxed at Sandringham. It was the first time since the couple's separation in 1992 that the Princess had not made even a token appearance at Sandringham.

The Princess has not yet indicated whether she will consent to divorce, and no moves are likely until her lawyers return from their Christmas holidays.

All eyes were on Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, making her first public appearance since leaving hospital with a replacement hip. She looked in good health and spirits despite her 95 years, smiling to the crowd although still walking with the occasional aid of two sticks. Those who had hoped that Prince Edward would be accompanied by Sophie Rhys-Jones, around whom there are continuing rumours of engagement, were disappointed. Miss Rhys-Jones is expected to visit Sandringham at some stage during the holiday.

In her own seasonal address, the Queen concentrated on what would have been an outstanding year for her, had it not been for the domestic troubles which continue to beset her. She avoided mention of family upsets in her Christmas broadcast, recorded last Thursday.

Instead she praised the peace makers of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and referred to the two highlights of her year which, had it not been for the continuing thorn of the Princess, would have been more *mirabilis* than *horribilis*.

In her speech she referred to the summer of celebrations commemorating the 50th anniversary of VE and VJ Day, which culminated in August in a theatrical Buckingham Palace balcony appearance by the Queen, the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret. Their re-enactment of those moments of victory in 1945 drew a crowd of at least a quarter of a million showing warm appreciation for a monarch doing her job as figurehead.

She recalled her triumphant tour of South Africa, one of the most successful state visits of her reign, in which her pleasure at welcoming the country back into the Commonwealth after the pariah years of apartheid was heightened by an enormous personal admiration for President Mandela.

One hint at displeasure with newspaper coverage of her family's troubles was a drastic cut in the number of reporters and photographers granted access at Sandringham.

Queen's message, page 2

JOHN STILLWELL



The Queen, Princess Margaret, Prince Andrew and the Queen Mother after the traditional Christmas service in Sandringham yesterday

I'm no saint, says nun praised by Queen

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

SISTER Ethel Normoyle, the Irish nun who was compared to Mother Teresa by the Queen in her Christmas Day broadcast for her work in South Africa's squalid shanty towns, said yesterday: "I'm amazed and grateful and she is very kind. But I'm no saint."

During her state visit to South Africa in March, the Queen visited the clinic where 50-year-old Sister Ethel, a member of the Little Company of Mary and a trained nurse, worked among the flimsy corrugated iron and cardboard shacks that are the homes of up to 12,000 people on the outskirts of New Brighton township outside Port Elizabeth.

It is one of the roughest, toughest areas of South Africa and during the late 1980s and early 1990s among the most violent. The Queen, in her Christmas message, described Sister Ethel's work as a glowing example of service to the less fortunate.

Sister Ethel, from Lissycasey, Co Clare, is the only nun in the shanty town and lives alone close to it. She said yesterday that she has a team of about 20 lay helpers who assist her in gathering and distributing clothes, primer stoves and other basic essentials.

She has been in South Africa for seven years. "There used to be a lot of sisters coming out from Eire, but it's a vocation and a calling that doesn't appeal very much to younger people now," she said. When she began her work her clinic was in the open air under a tree.

The first improvement was a corrugated iron and timber shack built for her by the people of the shanty town. That has since been replaced by a permanent structure, which the Queen visited, funded by a foundation established by local business people and residents.

"The area is ravaged by tuberculosis and malnutrition," she said. "And about 80 per cent of the men are unemployed." In addition to health care she and her helpers run pre-school classes for the children of working mothers and for homeless street children, as well as sewing and handicraft instruction for adults. It is a seven day a week job and Sister Ethel usually gets home after dark.

She said yesterday: "We are just trying to reach out to people who are broken and repressed and I'm just trying to do my bit to bring the compassion of Christ to people."

Both the Queen and herself, she added, "have shared in the theme of the poverty of people".

Leading article, page 15



Sister Ethel with The Queen earlier this year

Forte to sell restaurants

Forte is set to sell its restaurant operations, which include the Little Chef, Happy Eater, Welcome Break motorway stations, and its 112 Travelodge hotels to Whitbread in an attempt to defeat Granada's £3.3 billion takeover bid. The sale is subject to shareholder approval Page 36

Missing girl plea

Police searching for a "naive and trusting" French girl missing for a week after taking a lift in a lorry, appealed for the help of lorry drivers who had used an M4 service station..... Page 3

Buying The Times overseas
Austria Sch 40; Belgium B Frs 80; Canada $3.25; Canaries Pes 325; Cyprus C£1.20; Denmark Dkr 18.00; Finland Fmk 17.00; France F 14.00; Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar 90p; Greece Dr 450; Netherlands Fl 4.50; Irish Republic 45p; Italy L 4,500; Luxembourg Lf 60; Madeira Esc 350; Malta 45c; Morocco Dir 27.00; Norway Kr 20.00; Portugal con Esc 350; Spain Pts 325; Sweden Skr 18.00; Switzerland S Frs 4.00; Tunisia Din 2.200; USA $3.50.

52

9 770140 046220

Unwell Pope unable to complete greeting

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN ROME



The Pope: looked tired during midnight Mass

POPE John Paul II, 75, was yesterday unable to complete his traditional Christmas Day greeting to the world because of ill health.

The Pontiff, suffering from influenza, turned away from his third-floor Vatican study window, apologising for being unable to carry on after delivering his *Urbi et Orbi* message on a rainy, mild morning.

"Excuse me, I must interrupt," said the Pope ten minutes into his speech to a crowd in St Peter's Square. He had been about to wish holiday greetings in 55 languages, a Christmas and Easter highlight for millions.

As the crowd fell silent in disbelief, the international television link broadcasting the ceremony to 67 nations and an audience estimated at nearly two billion, was cut.

Twenty minutes after he left the window, the Pope returned for a moment to assure those below that he was in no serious danger. "Again I wish you Merry Christmas," he said. "I am sorry I had to leave, but anyone — even the Pope — can fall ill. Thank you for your patience." Vatican officials said the Pope had awoken with a fever of 37.5C yesterday, due possibly to the weather and over-exertions during a Christmas Eve midnight Mass.

It was indicated his departure from the window was probably caused by nausea.

The Pope is expected to travel today to Castel Gandolfo for several days of rest.

His speech was transmitted on the Internet as the Vatican went online yesterday.

Arctic cold expected to spread to whole of the country

BY PETER FOSTER AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

TEMPERATURES are expected to plunge today after Arctic blizzards brought a white Christmas to much of Scotland, Wales and northern England.

The worst-hit areas were in northern Scotland, where some homes were without electricity for up to 36 hours after heavy snow brought down overhead power cables. Snowdrifts up to 10ft deep cut off many roads.

The London Weather Centre forecast a succession of extremely cold nights with Arctic air covering the whole country. Even in the south-east of England, frosts of -5C (26.6F) were predicted last night, leaving roads hazardous. Tonight the temperature is expected to drop to -5C (23F) in the region.

Bookmakers face a big payout to those who laid bets on a white Christmas. Many of Britain's main cities recorded snow: William Hill has to pay out for snowfall in Newcastle upon Tyne (evens), Edinburgh (evens), Norwich (2/1), Leeds (2/1) and Manchester (2/1). Aberdeen and Belfast also had snow. Frost will cause problems for motorists but today will be mainly dry with sunny spells. East Anglia and northeast England could receive snow.

In Scotland, drivers were advised by the Automobile Association to travel only if necessary. In Wales, motorists were warned to take care on icy roads.

As snow and wind gradually fade, the worst peril is likely to be freezing night time temperatures.

Worst hit by the wintry weather, caused by air from the Arctic, was Shetland. On Christmas Eve, winds gusted up to 100mph as more than 12 inches of snow fell on the islands. All roads outside Lerwick, the main town, were blocked by drifts, some as deep as 30ft.

Snow-plough drivers were ordered by Shetland Islands Council to stay at home for their own safety, leaving 500 miles of roads still blocked.

Coastguards have been on duty for three days because they cannot get home and their replacements have been unable to get through. Four television engineers in a small boat braved the crossing to the tiny island of Bressay to try to start generators for Shetland's main TV and radio transmitters, which have been off since Christmas Eve.

Jonathan Wills, who lives with his wife and family on Bressay, said: "A policeman said to me yesterday that people are having conversations again because they can't watch the box. We are going to think of evacuation soon because we are getting low on candles and gas for the back-up heater."

Creighton Irvine, a hill farmer living in Bixter, west Shetland, said that he and his family were perfectly happy sitting round a peat fire and chatting by candlelight. He said: "The weather's rough but the fire's warm and the freezer is well charged up with grub to keep us going."

Shetland was in danger of being cut off as ferries were cancelled and Sumburgh airport was closed.

Forecast, page 18

G&H

Buy something special and we'll go *halves* with you.

The Gieves & Hawkes Sale starts tomorrow.

EXAMPLES OF REDUCTIONS	PRICE WAS	PRICE NOW
Business suit Pure wool, navy pinstripe	£495	£245
Cashmere sweater 3 & 4-ply marl cashmere, crewneck style & cable design, in a variety of colours	£450	£195
Tweed jacket From our contemporary collection, charcoal grey, 3-button tweed jackets in two designs	£350	£150

WITH UP TO 50% REDUCTIONS ON BUSINESSWEAR, CASUALWEAR, ACCESSORIES AND A WIDE RANGE OF GIEVES & HAWKES AND CHURCH'S SHOES.

Listed offers subject to availability

GIEVES & HAWKES
No.1 Savile Row, London

LONDON: No. 1 SAVILE ROW, 18 LIME STREET, SELFRIDGES, OXFORD STREET W1. BATH, CHELTENHAM, CHESTER, PORTSMOUTH, WINCHESTER.

G&H

TV & RADIO 34, 35
WEATHER 18
CROSSWORDS 18, 36

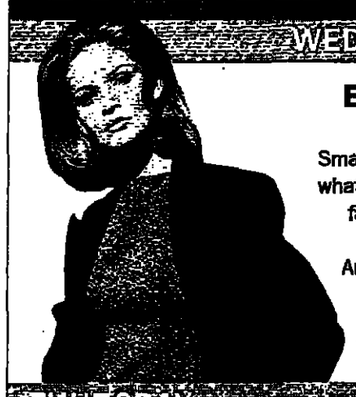
LETTERS 15
OBITUARIES 17
LIBBY PURVES 14

ARTS 30, 31
CHESS & BRIDGE 23
COURT & SOCIAL 16

SPORT 19-26
BODY AND MIND 10
LAW REPORT 32

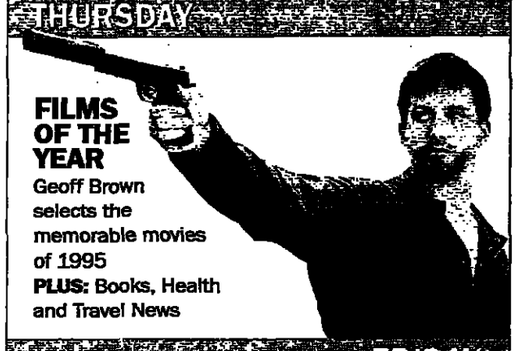
THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY



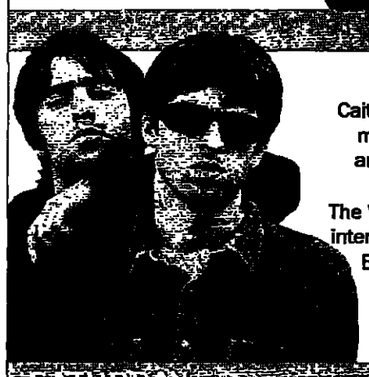
ESSENTIAL FASHION
Smart sales guide: what to buy, by the fashion experts
PLUS: Anniversaries of the year, and Interactive Team Football

THURSDAY



FILMS OF THE YEAR
Geoff Brown selects the memorable movies of 1995
PLUS: Books, Health and Travel News

FRIDAY



POP
Caitlin Moran on modern music and musicians
PLUS: The Valerie Grove interview and the Bernard Levin column

SATURDAY

BLOOMSBURY BOOKS OFFER
Buy one Bloomsbury Classic, get one free **PLUS: Magazine:** Jonathan Meades's Restaurants of the Year **Weekend:** the champagne jumbo crossword **Car 95:** motoring news **1015** for young Times readers **Vision:** the 7-day TV and radio guide



EVERY DAY THIS WEEK: YOUR CHANCE TO WIN 5,000 LOTTERY TICKETS

Cinema owner on triple murder charge

A cinema owner will appear before magistrates tomorrow accused of murdering three men whose bodies were discovered over a wide area of North Wales. Peter Moore, 49, a single man from Kinmel Bay, Clwyd, was charged with the third murder yesterday after the discovery of a badly decomposed body in the Clocaenog Forest near Ruthin. An inquest was opened and adjourned on the man and police hope dental records and DNA evidence will help them to identify him.

Mr Moore had appeared before Colwyn Bay magistrates on Friday charged with killing Tony Davies, 40, a crematorium worker, and on Christmas Eve charged with the murder of Keith Randles, 49, of Chester. Mr Randles, a safety manager who had been stabbed, was found last month on a construction site beside the A5 on Anglesey.

Jackson tops the Pops



Michael Jackson, left, kept the No 1 spot in the Christmas singles chart yesterday, beating the novelty band Mike Flowers Pops. The single *Earth Song*, from Jackson's HIStory album, which hit the top last week, managed to hang on despite unexpectedly high sales for Flowers's tongue-in-cheek version of the Oasis hit *Wonderwall*. The Beatles were at No 8 with *Free as a Bird*.

Father and sons die

A police inspector and his two sons died when their car was involved in a collision with three lorries during a Christmas shopping trip. David Hogarth, 41, and his 12-year-old son Matthew died instantly in the crash in icy conditions in the Derbyshire Peak District on Saturday. His other son Andrew, 10, died in Manchester Children's Hospital. Andrew's mother Ruth donated his organs for transplant. The Hogarths have no other children.

Britons return to court

Two Britons are to appear in court in Bangkok on Thursday on drugs charges. Proceedings against Robert Lock and Sandra Gregory have already lasted almost three years. Their trial has been repeatedly adjourned because of the failure of a potentially key witness, an airline official, to attend court. Gregory, 29, from West Yorkshire, has admitted possessing heroin, but denied trafficking. Mr Lock, 30, from Cambridge, has denied any offence.

Vicar's job challenge

The Rev Kit Chalcraft, who lost his post because he wished to marry for a third time, is to appeal against a tribunal decision that he cannot claim unfair dismissal because he was self-employed. Mr Chalcraft, formerly priest-in-charge of the Hilborough group of parishes in Norfolk, wants to help other clergy who have suffered at the hands of the church, according to his third wife, Susanne. She said: "He just wants to air the lack of natural justice."

Howard under fire

Sacked jails chief attacks Tory backing for hard line

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

POLITICIANS are overly concerned with excessively tough prison regimes, the sacked head of the Prison Service said yesterday. Derek Lewis's outspoken attack on government policy followed the denunciation of the Home Secretary 24 hours earlier by the former governor of Parkhurst.

Mr Lewis said that prisons should be austere and there should be no hint of luxury. But they were not serving the public well if they simply turned out "embittered, alienated prisoners who are going to go straight back to a life of crime". There was a very important rehabilitative task to be done as well.

Britain could be going down the same road as America in incarcerating too many people. There are now over 1.5 million people in prison in the United States, five times as many as there are in this country relative to the size of the general population. "It would be very easy to start down that slippery slope from which it would be very difficult to return." Mr Lewis said on BBC Radio 5 Live.

He said the Prison Service needed to be given the freedom to get on with the job it was supposed to do. "That is something that did not happen. There was too much political involvement in the day-to-day running of the service."

John Marriott, the former governor of Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight, accused Michael Howard of making prison policy on the hoof and in response to newspaper headlines, and of creating a scapegoat mentality throughout the penal system.

In his first comments since being dismissed after the escape of three dangerous prisoners from his jail in January, Mr Marriott said Mr Howard was the worst Home Secretary in 25 years. He was a "small-minded individual" who mistook public rhetoric and posturing for statesmanship.

"My own view is that he makes policy on the hoof when he sees a tabloid headline about something and policy is dictated as a consequence of that," Mr Marriott said. "I think he mistakes public posturing, public rhetoric with strong leadership, and I think he is quite a small-minded man in many ways."

The Government is having difficulty in finding a replacement for Mr Lewis, who was sacked as Director-General of the Prison Service in October. A number of candidates have been approached, including Anthony Mayer, chief executive of the Housing Corporation. A spokeswoman for the corporation said he had been formally sounded out about the job but was not interested in taking it.

Mr Marriott left the Prison Service at the end of November to become general manager in charge of mental health with the Isle of Wight Community Healthcare NHS Health Trust. He said Home Office ministers had been aware of security shortcomings at Parkhurst at the time of the escape. He had made repeated requests for alarms to be fitted to the perimeter fence. There had been a degree of "skulduggery" in the decision to relieve him of his job.

However, a report by Sir John Learmont was highly critical of management as well as security lapses at Parkhurst and demanded that security be given a much greater emphasis throughout the 133 jails in England and Wales.

Ann Widdecombe, the Prisons Minister, said: "The Learmont report found that if routine procedures had been carried out such as counting prisoners in and out, keeping control of tools, making sure officers were familiar with the security manual, the escape might not have happened."

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said Mr Marriott's comments had lifted the veil on a crisis of morale in the Prison Service. "With prison numbers rising whilst finance is being cut, the last thing the service needs is leadership by scapegoat."



Howard: accused of being small minded

Magistrates are urged to tag more offenders

BY RICHARD FORD

MAGISTRATES and probation officers are being urged to take a positive attitude towards electronic tagging of offenders as the Government attempts to overcome a very poor response to the £1.3 million trials.

The Government is expected to announce next month that the nine-month experiment is to be extended for a further year because only 17 tagging orders have been imposed in 25 weeks.

Baroness Blatch, a junior Home Office Minister, said after visiting Manchester, one of three trial areas, that ministers knew there were people for whom a curfew was a very effective sentence. "More use could be made of it if the probation service and magistrates would be more imaginative," she added.

One of the eight people tagged in Manchester was sentenced to four months in prison after cutting off the electronic device and throwing it into a pond. He is alleged to have claimed that it made him feel "like a dog".

An offender in Reading was taken back to court for breaching his tagging order after he took it off when he was assaulted by some youths. The 22-year-old had been been mistaken for a sex offender who had also been tagged. He has since been convicted of driving while disqualified and jailed for three months.

In an attempt to overcome the very low use of tagging to enforce curfew orders, magistrates have been urged to "bang the drum" for electronic monitoring. In November the Magistrates' Association seminar accused probation officers of sabotaging the nine-month scheme. . One offender was quoted as saying: "I thought it was going to be awful because my probation officer told me it would be."

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, denied that the service was involved in sabotaging tagging.

He said: "The tagging pilot staggers on even though it has problems and is unpopular with the courts. If ministers have any evidence that probation officers are undermining this project then they should make that available for independent inspection.

"Magistrates can always make electronic curfew orders which are not in line with report recommendations."



MARTIN BEDDALL

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, at home yesterday with his grandchildren, David, foreground, aged five, and, from left, Oliver, two, Edward, nine months, Jonathan, one, and Simon, eight

Rwanda relief workers spend Christmas reuniting families

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

FRANK KENNEDY celebrated his achievement of feeding 35,000 Rwandan refugees for a week with a Christmas day dinner of white beans and bottled beer.

Across the border in Zaire another relief worker, Rob MacGillivray was reflecting on a month in which he had helped to reunite 400 children with their parents after perhaps 18 months' separation. The 36-year-old Save the Children worker toasted the work of international relief agencies with a glass of whisky, saved for the purpose. He led a chorus of Christmas carols on the banjo.

Both men are part of a small army of British aid agency workers helping to transform the camps of Rwandan refugees from disaster zones into a manageable humanitarian problem.

Two million Hutus and retreating government troops fled the genocide in Rwanda to neighbouring Burundi, Tanzania and Zaire. The threat of forced repatriation still hangs over the families trying to scratch a living in camps like that at Bukavu, on the Zaire-Rwanda border.

The mass deaths from malnutrition and disease have ended but the day-to-day work of making the camps habitable is a complex international relief operation. Mr Kennedy, 37, in his fourth year working for the Red Cross, is based at the Benaco and Lukole camps on the Tanzanian border. He co-ordinates the food supply for 320,000 people.

The working day starts at 5.30am when the warehouses are opened. Two hours later, 35,000 refugees are queueing at turnstiles. Every two weeks, each gets a supply of 5kg of maize, beans, vegetables and a corn and soya blend.

"This is enough to give a basic nutritional requirement," Mr Kennedy said. "We try to encourage camp managers to issue tools and seeds. We encourage the planting of small vegetables and small animal husbandry, so that a degree of normalcy can be achieved."

Yesterday some of the refugees, who are predominantly Christian, spontaneously began singing carols.

Mr Kennedy, who comes from Middlesbrough, misses home. "I think of my family every day," he says. "I was here at the beginning [of the crisis] last year, in the summer. I have been here now for six weeks and it is a completely different operation.

"The speed of the influx and the sheer scale took us all by surprise. There is a trickle returning home but it is fewer than we would like.

"What the refugees are saying is: they want information from inside Rwanda. They want very localised information, such as 'How is my field?' and 'How is my village?' Until they are reassured they will not go back."

Mr MacGillivray spent much of Christmas Day worrying about a colleague who was returning from the Save the Children base at Kigali in Rwanda. His first duty was a radio-check call. "I have got a Land Rover returning to Bukavu and the driver's progress has to be monitored constantly, particularly through sensitive border areas. When that is done, I could continue writing my report on the last year for Save the Children."



Kennedy: organises food for 320,000 people

An estimated 100,000 children were split from their families during the genocide and many have turned up at the camps looking for their parents. Often their parents were looking for them.

"This is where Save the Children comes in," Mr MacGillivray, a Glaswegian whose wife Liz is also a relief worker, said. "Using our logistics network, we can marry up pieces of information given by the child and by the family.

"If the information matches, we can then proceed with the process of reunification — a very emotional occasion for all concerned — particularly so because many parents have now lost hope of ever seeing their children again.

"Christmas is a family occasion. Of course, I would like to be sharing it with my family but I do take great satisfaction in the knowledge that there are many children who are sharing Christmas with their families."

Mr Kennedy had not been able to hear the Queen's Christmas message, in which she paid tribute to people like him working for peace in the world's trouble spots, because his radio batteries had gone flat. "But it's a great thrill to know that the Queen is thinking of us."

Queen praises unsung volunteers for spreading message of peace

THE full text of the Queen's Christmas message:

In 1995 the nation and the Commonwealth have been celebrating the anniversary of VE and VJ Day. In quieter moments we also remembered those who paid the price for our freedom.

Commemorations and anniversaries are very important elements in our national life. Last summer we paid tribute, 50 years on, to all those who took part in the deadly events of the Second World War. In May we gave thanks for the end of the war in Europe, and then in August, for the first time since the end of the war in the Far East, we gave a real welcome home to the veterans of Burma and the Pacific.

It was difficult to know that day who felt the greater pride, those of us watching or those on parade. It was an unforgettable day for all of us.

The war demanded immense sacrifices and acts of selfless endurance and bravery but the final victory gave much of the world 50 years of relative peace. All generations since then have had good reason to be grateful to those who gave their service and, in all too many cases, their health or their lives, so that the rest of us could enjoy the freedom to get on with our lives in peace.

The work for peace is never-ending. At long last the fighting between the factions in the former Yugoslavia seems to be coming to an end, with life beginning to return to some kind of normality. This Christmas, thousands of Commonwealth servicemen and women will be far from their families, already playing their part in the international force dedicated to keeping that peace.

Closer to home, there has been a peace in Northern Ireland for more than a year. It is heartily welcomed by all people of goodwill. These are the first fruits of that ceaseless work for peace. They could only have been achieved by the quiet and determined efforts of all sorts of different people, some of them famous, many of them unnoticed and unsung by the world at large, but all peacemakers nonetheless. It is when the fighting ceases that the work of reconciliation and reconstruction can begin.

A short time ago, I invited a number of workers from volunteer organisations to Buckingham Palace. They came from all over the Commonwealth and they had worked in many countries, from Bosnia to Rwanda, from Chechenya to Cambodia. They go quietly about their business, in harrowing and dangerous circumstances, giving help to the suffering and the hungry.

Like the people who fought and won the last war, they make no claim to be anything out of the ordinary but their commitment is very far from ordinary. And their contribution is something of which all their compatriots can feel deeply proud.

It was during my visit to South Africa last March that I witnessed a glowing example of how the inspiration and energy of one person can benefit thousands of others.

Seven years ago, Sister Ethel came to a township outside Port Elizabeth where she began teaching young children under the shade of a solitary tree. Through her hard work and tenacity she has now built a pre-school and a clinic. These provide for children and teenagers who have missed out on formal education.

Soup and bread are distributed to the heads of 500 families from the township each day and, through the use of a piece of waste ground by the local council, people are being taught to cultivate the land and grow their own vegetables. But I suspect that Sister Ethel's modesty and sense of humour prevent her from appreciating the full extent of her achievements.

The traditional Christmas message speaks of peace and goodwill among men. It is the volunteers and the Sister Ethels of this world who spread that message and it is for the rest of us to welcome it.

Christ said: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." Thanks to the peacemakers, many millions will enjoy a better Christmas this year. I hope your Christmas will be a happy one. God bless you all.

Police alert on gang warfare after pub killing

DETECTIVES fear an outbreak of gang warfare after a shooting in a packed pub on Christmas Eve. Francis Kelly, 28, died as he drank at Macey's bar in the Bigg Market area of Newcastle upon Tyne.

The gunman opened fire from almost point-blank range. Mr Kelly's drinking companion, David Armstrong, was shot in the arm as he rushed to his aid.

Dozens of drinkers dived for cover. Mr Kelly, a father of two, stumbled into the street and collapsed. One witness, Andy Field, said: "I saw a young man stumble out of the pub clutching his chest. He got to the middle of the road when another young man pointed a gun and fired into his stomach."

The victims came from well-known families in the West End area of the city, where police are investigating other serious incidents.

Detective Chief Inspector Derek Storey said: "This was a barbaric act with total disregard for the safety of the very large number of innocent members of the public who were congregating in the area enjoying the pre-Christmas festivities. Clearly we are concerned when a gun is used in a packed pub. It shows what type of people we are looking for."

Another witness, Bill Johnson, said: "It looked like a professional job to me. I was standing near by and the gunman looked as though he knew what he was doing." The shooting is the latest in a series of incidents connected to the West End area in recent months.

In October, three men were "knee-capped" by a gunman in the Star Inn. A month earlier, William Thompson, a publican, lost both legs after being shot at his pub, The Grainger.

☐ Police in Co Durham are appealing for help to trace the final movements of a man found dead on Christmas Eve. The body of Steven Gourly, 21, was discovered at 11.15pm in Bondgate car park, Bishop Auckland, where he had been seen earlier with his girlfriend.

Police want to speak to a man seen talking to the girlfriend, but last night officers stressed that the death of Mr Gourly, of Shildon, Co Durham, was not being treated as suspicious. Inspector Graham Hall said: "However, we must cover all avenues and want to speak to anyone who may have seen Steven or talked to him on the night he died."

هكذا من الاصل

Concern growing for safety of 'naive and trusting' French hitch-hiker

Police appeal to lorry drivers in hunt for teenager

BY TIM JONES

POLICE searching for a "naive and trusting" French girl missing for a week after taking a lift in a lorry appealed yesterday for the help of lorry drivers who had used an M4 service station at the time she was last seen.

Celine Figard, 19, was seen at a service station at Chieveley, near Newbury, Berkshire, climbing into the cab of a refrigeration lorry last Tuesday. It had a Thermo King 38-ton or 40-ton trailer unit, painted in grey and the driver, who had ginger-blond hair and a ginger moustache, was wearing grey overalls. Police believe they could have been matching livery colours.

Detective Superintendent Des Thomas, in charge of the inquiry, said yesterday: "We have had more than 200 calls from the public but so far there has been no positive sighting. We are getting progressively more concerned. Despite a great deal of publicity, the lorry driver who gave her a lift has not come forward and suspicions are now falling on him. If he reads this and is innocent I would ask him to call us immediately. Even if he has something to hide, I would ask him to get in touch because we are on his trail. We will find him." Police say that



A police video-fit of the suspected lorry driver

the driver has cropped, ginger hair, a "chin strap" beard, and is aged between 30 and 40.

Last night, the girl's father, Bernard Figard, 46, said: "I am desperately worried and so is my wife. She is a very sensible, responsible, level-headed girl who has never gone missing before." M Figard, a farmer, said his daughter, who speaks English fairly well, had been in England before and knew her way around. "She is just a normal teenager. She has made several trips like this before without any problems."

Mlle Figard had left her home near Chalons-sur-Marne, about 200 miles south-east of Paris, to spend Christmas with her cousin, Jean-Mark Figard, at Fordingbridge, Hampshire.

Mlle Figard, an accountancy student, had kept in touch with her parents but her trail went cold after she was seen boarding a lorry at the service station. She had left home on Tuesday at 7am and travelled with a lorry driver who is a family friend.

At Folkestone, she was given a lift by another French driver who was known to the first driver and he took her to the Chieveley station.

Mlle Figard had been trying to get a lift to Salisbury, Wiltshire. "We know that she tried to ring the hotel from Chieveley but dialled the wrong code and didn't get through," Mr Thomas said. "She was offered the chance to use a phone in the cab of a lorry and got aboard the white Mercedes tractor unit about 4.30pm."

Mlle Figard is described as slightly built, 5ft, with wavy, brown, shoulder-length hair, brown eyes and a clear complexion. She was wearing a green jacket with a black pattern, black jeans, ankle boots and, around her neck, a pendant bearing the initial C.

Mr Thomas appealed for any lorry drivers, who used the Chieveley service station between 4pm and 6pm on December 19, to contact the police. "They may not think they have information, but we need to eliminate them from the inquiry," he said.

The driver's workmates and family would know who he was and Mr Thomas urged them to contact police. "If she is still alive then the quicker we get to her the better. The main thrust of our inquiries is the preservation of Celine's life. We simply do not know what has happend to her.

"Of course we have very serious fears for her personal safety given the amount of time she has been missing. She completed 90 per cent of her journey and then disappeared."

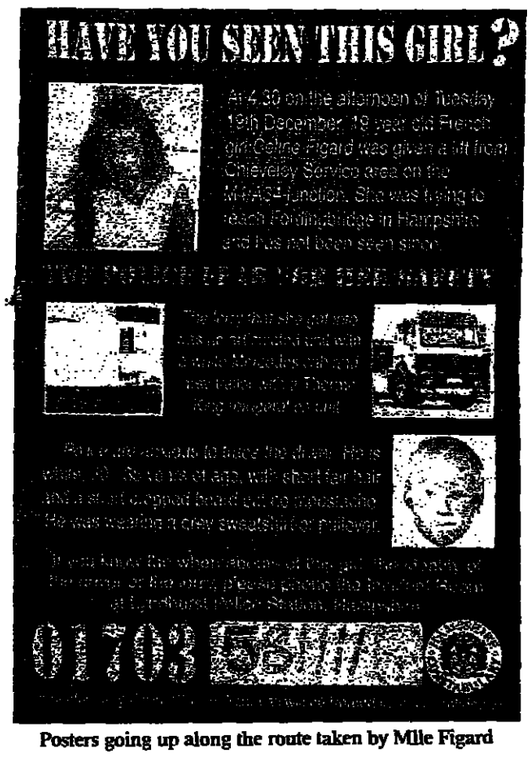
Mr Thomas said that Mlle Figard is a level-headed and sensible young woman though, perhaps, "a bit naive and trusting".

Last night, her cousin said: "She is a lovely, lively girl and we are very close. I am worried sick. I beg anyone who knows anything about her to contact the police."

Posters showing a photograph of the girl and video-fit likeness of the suspected lorry driver will be put up tomorrow along the route she took.



Celine Figard, missing since December 19, was last seen at an M4 service station



Posters going up along the route taken by Mlle Figard

Three orphaned after man kills himself and wife

BY TIM JONES

THREE young children spent Christmas Day with relatives after their father battered their mother to death and committed suicide.

Police believe Leslie Brough, 35, described as a "jolly, family man", attacked his wife during an argument. He killed himself with a shotgun.

Their oldest child, Kim, 6, rushed in tears to a nearby house and said: "Please help me, my mummy and daddy are dead."

Andrea Brough, in her 30s, suffered head injuries in the attack at the family home in the village of Cleator, Cumbria, and died five hours later at the West Cumberland Hospital in Whitehaven.

Kim, her brother Marcus, aged 4, and four-month-old Joseph were in the terraced house, which had been decorated for Christmas, when the row erupted at lunchtime on Saturday.

The children spent Christmas being cared for by relatives as social workers and trained police officers began the delicate task of trying to find out from them exactly what happened.

Detective Inspector Paul Carter, of Whitehaven police, said: "This is an awful tragedy. When we got there a man was lying dead in the living room having shot himself and the woman was in the house suffering from very serious head injuries.

"The family had obviously been getting ready for Christmas. I know there are pressures at this time of year so it might be that something bubbling under the surface came to a head, but we just don't know yet."

He said everyone in Cleator a tiny, close knit community, had been devastated by the tragedy.

Detective Inspector Carter added: "Everyone knows each other and all the children all go to the same school. Everyone is affected by this terrible tragedy which is made worse coming so soon before Christmas."

Roy Hodgeson, landlord of the Three Tuns, said the family had lived in the village for about six years and all the children had been born there.

"Their father was a nice guy who would come in occasionally for a pint of shandy but basically he was a family man. He preferred staying at home to going out with the lads. He seemed to be a jolly bloke, always laughing and didn't seem to have a care in the world.

"The baby, Joseph, was christened about four weeks ago. I can't understand why he did it. It can't be money problems because they were selling their house so they could build a bungalow on his father's farm."

Mr Brough earned about £18,000 a year as a construction worker at the British Nuclear Fuels Sellafield plant.

Soldier in Bosnia is found shot dead

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

A BRITISH soldier sent to Bosnia only two weeks ago as part of the Nato peace implementation force was found shot dead in his bed on Christmas Eve in Sarajevo in an apparent suicide.

Signalman Mark Maxwell, 22, of the 7th Royal Signals, suffered a single shot to the head at 8.30pm. "It appears no one else was involved," a spokesman for the Nato force, Colonel Mark Rayner, said at a press conference yesterday.

Soldiers, who were celebrating Christmas by preparing a traditional turkey lunch in the Zetra sports stadium where the regiment is based, were saddened by their colleague's death. "What a place to be at Christmas. We had a minute's silence for Maxwell at this morning's church service," Corporal Troy Burrows, a friend of the soldier, said.

Signalman Maxwell arrived in Sarajevo on December 10 as part of the 60,000-strong Nato force being deployed in Bosnia to implement the Dayton accord. He is the first fatality in the 13,000-strong British contingent. On Saturday, two British soldiers were injured when they drove over a mine.

Colleagues expressed shock at the death and said Signalman Maxwell had not appeared depressed. "He was always a happy lad. He made people smile," Major Julian Turner, the officer commanding the regiment, said.

Signalman Maxwell had been in the 7th Royal Signals since 1992 and had been in the Army for six years.

Weeks of surgery for boy savaged by rottweilers

BY A STAFF REPORTER

DOCTORS will begin a series of operations this week to try to save an 11-year-old boy from partial paralysis after he was savaged by two rottweilers. He is unable to move one leg and it will be several weeks before surgeons know whether he will ever walk normally again.

He will also need extensive plastic surgery to rebuild his face, which was so mutilated that his mother could barely recognise him.

The dogs pounced on David Kearney on Saturday evening after he climbed a 6ft fence into the backyard of a house at Darwen, Lancashire, where three of the dogs were kept. His sister Amanda, 14, said that David had been carol-singing with friends and they had then played football. The ball was accidentally kicked into the yard, she said.

"He climbed over with some friends to get the football back," she said. "When they saw the dogs, his friends ran away but David bent down to get the ball. As he did that, some money fell out of his pocket. He stayed to pick it up and one of the dogs came over. He tried to make friends with it, but it went for him."



David Kearney: climbed fence into dogs' yard

The owner, Kevin Turner, asked police to have the two dogs destroyed after the attack. He said the first he knew anything was wrong was when a neighbour rang him on his mobile phone to say the dogs had bitten a child.

"Within ten minutes of getting the call, I got home and went straight through into the yard. There was a policeman shining a torch over the fence. I told him it was my house and he asked me to put the dogs away.

"I thought he was going to tell me that the dogs had bitten a boy and that he was in hospital having a few stitches. But as I turned to look up the dogs, I saw the boy lying behind the yard door. The poor kid was not moving at all. I locked the dogs up and we heard the boy make a little groan. We covered him with blankets to keep him warm."

Last night the injured child was on a ventilator at Booth Hall Hospital, Manchester, where his condition was said to be "critical but stable".

His parents spent Christmas at his bedside. His mother, Margaret Kearney, said: "He was so badly marked I hardly recognised him."

Police are drawing up a report of the incident but are not expected to take any action against Mr Turner. He has two other rottweilers and has promised to build a second fence round his yard.



Campaigners call for a clear-out

Chairman's exit at Yorkshire Water may start a flood

BY PAUL WILKINSON AND LINDSAY COOK

PRESSURE is mounting for widespread changes in the boardroom of Yorkshire Water after a disclosure that the troubled company is seeking a new chairman.

Sir Gordon Jones, who led the firm through the transfer from public utility to private corporation six years ago, wants to go before his compulsory retirement date of February 1997, when he will be 70. Corporate head-hunters have been hired to find a successor.

Sir Gordon's pay this year is £163,000 including perks. At the time of privatisation it was £54,825. The company has been criticised for high levels of leaks at a time when profits and executive salaries have risen.

The chairman is the third member of the board in a year to decide he has had enough. The finance director, Malcolm Batty, and the vice-chairman of Yorkshire Water Services, Tony Ward, have already gone. Sir Gordon and the chief executive, Trevor Newton, have taken much of the abuse over their firm's inability to guarantee supplies, particularly in the west of the region.

In the year to March, the company reported pre-tax profits of £142 million, but some of its 2.5 million customers still face 24-hour rota cuts. John Gummer, the Secretary of State for the Environment, will decide next month whether to approve the application for cuts in part of Bradford, Halifax and Calderdale.

The company's figures are expected to take a severe dent by the end of the financial year, which will depress share prices and displease institutional shareholders who often hold sway on board appointments. They are well aware of the £3 million-a-week cost to Yorkshire's profits caused by carrying water by tanker from Northumbria and the eastern part of its own region.

Diane Scott, from the pressure group Yorkshire Water Watch, said: "What I'd like now is a new year present — the whole board resigning. It shouldn't be just the chairman. At the very least, it must be Trevor Newton too. As a shareholder, I hope Sir Gordon doesn't get any pay-off or golden handshake."

She suggested that the chairman would probably be gone before he faced the first annual general meeting in which shareholders would be able to vote on the chairmanship. "He knew he'd be in for a lot of flak at the AGM. Customer shareholders would have voted him off the board and it would have been quite realistic to predict institutional shareholders might have thought somebody has to go and targeted him." Gerry



Jones: early retirement from his £163,000 post

Sutcliffe, Labour MP for Bradford South, said: "His departure could pre-empt a takeover bid by another company. This decision has all the hallmarks of that. The only worry I have is he leaves with a good package and leaves all the problems during the drought still there."

Amelia Clayton, 24, from Bradford, a shareholder and consumer, said: "He went before he was pushed. What we need now is somebody at the helm who'll run this company properly. It's a disgrace he's been allowed to carry on as long as he has done."

A Yorkshire Water spokeswoman denied that Sir Gordon, who became chairman of the publicly owned Yorkshire Water Authority in 1983, was ducking out under pressure. "He first said he wanted to go early at the AGM last July, before the drought crisis. He is happy to stay on until we find a successor, and Yorkshire Water is happy for him to do so." She refused to discuss any severance package, adding: "It is too early to consider that."

When the company was privatised, shares were sold at £2.40. Last Friday, they were £5.98. The City has admired Yorkshire's cost-cutting, although this has been achieved partly by shedding 1,000 jobs in the past year. In the same period, the company's operating profits of £200 million were up 17.4 per cent on a turnover of £495.3 million.

Many customers have been alienated. In the spring, the company told the wool industry — which employs about 25,000 in the area — that it was imposing an extra fee on its supplies to cover treatment of water that had been tainted by the industry.

The industry threatened to stop paying its bills. Later, at the height of the drought, the company suggested that firms should consider relocating to reduce water demand.

Last month, Yorkshire Water announced that it was to spend £50 million on 18 miles of pipeline and six pumping stations to try to prevent supply cuts in future droughts. Yorkshire's average leak rate is 26 per cent. It hopes this will be reduced to 24 per cent when the improvements have been carried out.

About £13 million has been spent since April on projects to help to maintain supplies. This has included buying thousands of gallons from Northumbrian Water.

Norman Broadbent, the City firm of headhunters which found a director-general for the CBI, has been asked to find Yorkshire's replacement chairman.

ASSIGNMENTS



Johanna Young, whose murder at the age of 14 in December 1992 remains unsolved

Three years on, father prays for killer's arrest

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE grieving parents of Johanna Young, the schoolgirl whose murder remains unsolved, will pray at her grave today for an end to their ordeal, three years after her body was found.

Police have again appealed for witnesses to contact them.

For Johanna's father, Robert, life has "a missing heartbeat" without the company of the 14-year-old whose face smiles from the photo-plaque set in her black marble headstone in the churchyard of St Mary's on the edge of the Norfolk market town of Watton. It was on Boxing Day 1992, three days after she disappeared, that she was found less than a mile from home, face down in a water-filled marl pit. When she was dumped along the lane by Wayland Wood, she had a head injury but was still alive; she died from drowning.

In the lounge of the family home, with its Christmas decorations and photographs of his daughter, Mr Young, 42, said: "Yes, I do feel bitterness and it's especially hard to take at this time of the year. But I believe the feeling will ease over the years. We want the person caught. It's like a missing last chapter. We need it before we can close the book. I remain optimistic, though. The police do catch murderers many years after the event."

Police have concluded that the killer is a local man or has close knowledge of the town. Some detectives suspect that he is among the many they have questioned during the inquiry. Because there were no scratches on her heels to indicate that Johanna had been dragged through undergrowth, police have not ruled out the possibility that her killer had an accomplice.

Detective Chief Inspector Peter Billingham said: "We need to find the missing piece of the jigsaw. We renew our appeal for anyone with information to come forward. We still feel there is vital information which for whatever reason we haven't been given."

He added: "There is no medical evidence Johanna had been sexually assaulted though her lower clothing had been removed. She was in the water for three days and we haven't got DNA.

"Whoever was involved would have known the locality and that knowledge wouldn't have come by stumbling across the spot."

Johanna went out at 7.30pm on December 23, a foggy night, while her father attended to his sone Daniel, 11. An hour later she was seen at a café in the High Street. The last sighting was in the town centre at 9pm.

The local community of 6,000 is still tense, according to the Rev John Eyre, former curate at St Mary's, now a clergyman in Lowestoft. Mr Eyre, who conducted Johanna's funeral service, said: "The community is still bewildered and there is a feeling that the matter has not been wrapped up. People feel unease in Watton because they know they may be in close proximity to the man who killed Johanna or even talking to him."

At the family's detached house, her bedroom is little changed. Her favourite furry toy animals remain, and many of her clothes hang in the wardrobe.

Mr Young, who has another daughter, Emma, 20, sometimes refers to Johanna in the present tense, his eyes filling with tears. "She was such a bubbly girl. She loved reading and drawing and painting. Everyone got on with her. We miss her terribly. Not a day goes by when we don't think of her.

"I hope that someone, somewhere, in an unguarded moment says something that identifies the person who killed her. The people of Watton are keeping an ear open still."

Family of murdered head says no to a telescope

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THERE was no telescope under the Christmas tree yesterday for Lucien Lawrence, the eight-year-old boy who wrote to Santa asking for his murdered father back.

Although well-wishers offered telescopes to the son of Philip Lawrence, the headmaster killed outside his London school, his family decided it would be best for the boy to wait until a less emotional time.

Lucien had written to Father Christmas: "I hope you won't think that I am being a nuisance but I have changed my mind what I want for Christmas. I wanted to have a telescope but now I want to have my Daddy back because without my Daddy to help I will not be able to see the stars anyway."

Laurence Soper, the Abbot of Ealing and a regular visitor to the bereaved family's home, said: "His mother doesn't want Lucien to have a telescope at Christmas because it is associated in his mind with his father."

The Lawrences maintained their tradition of spending a quiet family Christmas at their semi-detached home in West Ealing. Frances, the boy's mother, had taken down the Christmas tree from the loft after her husband died from a knife wound while protecting a pupil leaving his Roman Catholic comprehensive school in Maida Vale on December 8. She told Lucien and his sisters Maroushka, 21, Myfanwy, 19 and Unity, 13: "We will switch on the lights because that is a symbol of life, and we are celebrating Daddy's life."

The murder remains unsolved although it involved a known dispute between two groups of youths and happened in daylight with hundreds of children in the area. Mrs Lawrence has been reassured by the police that they are making every effort to catch her husband's killer.

Father Soper said: "They offered to let her go and see the incident room so they could explain exactly what was happening. She talked to them. She found it very comforting that they obviously went out of their way to involve her and explain and keep her in the picture."

The Lawrence family spent Christmas Day surrounded by thousands of messages from admirers. Many had sent contributions to the appeal organised by Ealing Abbey, the monastery attached to St Benedict's School, where Mr and Mrs Lawrence met as young teachers.

"Mrs Lawrence is immensely grateful for everything that has been done and for people's concern and interest and love," Father Soper said. "She is reading all the messages. She was particularly struck by a large card that a form in a primary school sent her. They had drawn on it and all sent messages."

Donations to The Philip Lawrence Memorial Fund should be sent c/o Ealing Abbey, Charlbury Grove, Ealing, London W5 2DY.



Leah Betts: died after taking Ecstasy tablet

Parents celebrate Leah's gift of life

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE father of Leah Betts spoke of his joy yesterday that a woman who received his daughter's organs was fit enough to spend Christmas at home.

Paul Betts, 49, learnt in a letter that the patient, who had been dying from lung disease, made such progress after getting Leah's heart and lungs that she was allowed to leave hospital. She was able to go shopping for presents.

Leah died after taking an Ecstasy tablet during her 18th birthday party in the family home at Latchingdon, Essex. Her parents agreed to let her organs be transplanted.

Mr Betts said: "Seeing a beautiful girl like that, it was a terrible decision to make but we are ever so glad we did because now this woman has got life.

"Two men have received Leah's kidneys, a woman received her liver, two people received her corneas. Those six people have got a happy Christmas. Best present anybody can give. We are very pleased about that. It hasn't helped with the loss but it has helped us very much to know that some good has come out of bad. It wasn't a total waste."

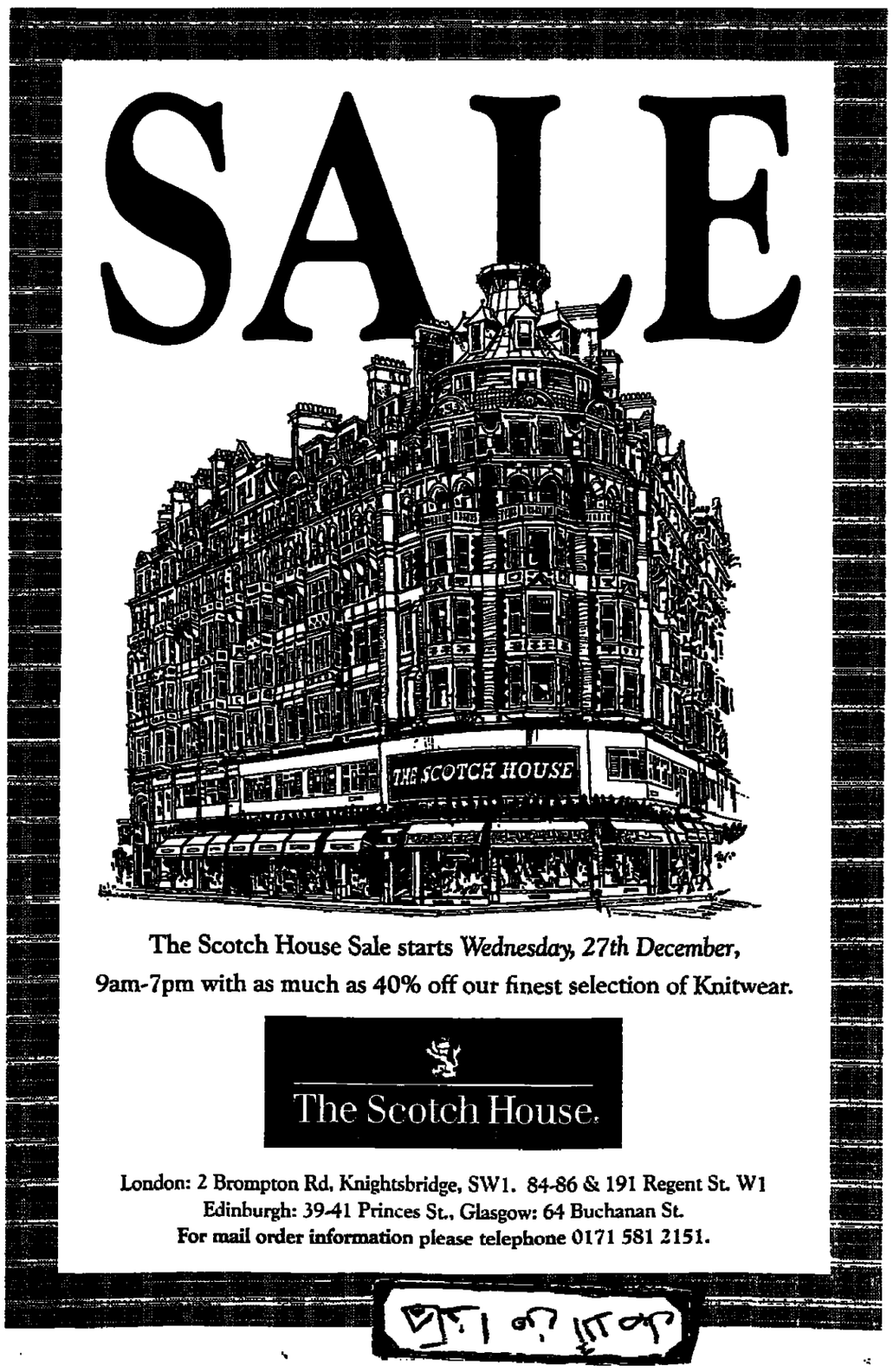
The woman with lung disease is in her early 20s and from East Anglia. The three-hour transplant was performed at Papworth Hospital.

Mr Betts said: "Even part of Leah's trachea was removed and frozen so new-born babies who have breathing problems can have an operation to have part of their trachea replaced."

The Betts family do not know who received the organs but a friend of the woman with lung disease has written twice to tell them about her progress. One of the men who received her kidneys had been on dialysis for 11 years, the other for nine.

Before Leah died, she heard a radio broadcast urging potential organ donors to enter their details on a computer register, but she was told she had to be 18. Mr Betts and his wife, Jan, decided to honour her wishes by offering her body for transplant.

Mr Betts said: "I certainly recommend anybody, if they can donate anything — it doesn't matter what it is — because receiving this letter and knowing about this woman who can laugh, get working, enjoy life again, that's brilliant. Why waste a body? Leah is no longer there. She has died and given life to others. That has to be the best Christmas present anybody can give to anybody. I wish somebody could have given it to Leah."



The Scotch House Sale starts *Wednesday, 27th December,*
9am-7pm with as much as 40% off our finest selection of Knitwear.

The Scotch House.

London: 2 Brompton Rd, Knightsbridge, SW1. 84-86 & 191 Regent St. W1
Edinburgh: 39-41 Princes St., Glasgow: 64 Buchanan St.
For mail order information please telephone 0171 581 2151.

Mystery woman found in boat lake

BY A STAFF REPORTER

POLICE are trying to identify the body of a woman found yesterday in the boating lake at Gravesend, Kent.

The woman is thought to have been aged between 65 and 75. She is described as white, 5ft 6in and wearing a grey jacket and dark skirt.

A police spokesman said: "We still don't know who she is." The woman was discovered when the boatkeeper arrived yesterday morning to do his rounds.

Police said: "He was on a routine patrol when he spotted the woman floating in the middle of the lake." A post-mortem examination will be made tomorrow.

"It's certainly a terrible Christmas tragedy. At this stage, we still don't know if this is a suspicious death. We have no idea how the woman got where she was found or how she died.

"We are carrying out the normal inquiries such as checking missing persons records but in the meantime we would like to hear from anyone who thinks they may know the identity of this mystery woman."

Leeson decides to change his future by degrees

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

NICK LEESON, the jailed former Barings trader, wants to study for qualifications to be able to support his wife when he is freed from prison in Singapore.

The trader who brought down Barings Bank has asked Lisa Leeson to inquire about a business degree that he could undertake while serving a six-and-a-half year sentence in Changi jail.

The Open University is an obvious choice and he might also consider law.

Leeson is acutely aware that, as the man who destroyed Britain's oldest merchant bank, he will have difficulty returning to the jobs market. His criminal record will make it even harder.

He spent Christmas Day in his cell without visitors, presents or a turkey meal. Many time zones away, Mrs Leeson was at her parents' house in West Kingsdown, Kent. She could not communicate with her husband to wish him a Merry Christmas.

The Changi jail is famous for its strict regime. He shares a 10ft square cell with at least two Chinese prisoners, sleeping on a straw mattress on the floor. There is no air conditioning to combat the tropical heat and no extractor fan to remove smells. His lavatory is a hole in the floor.



Leeson: asked his wife to inquire about courses

Christmas is celebrated in Singapore, a multicultural society that throws itself into festivities of all faiths, including Diwali, the Hindu festival of light, and the Chinese new year. Turkeys imported from the United States are available from the Cold Storage chain of supermarkets but the armed guards at Changi were unlikely to send out for any.

At the prison there were no Christmas concessions — no food parcels or visits. Leeson was offered a small portion of food, an Oriental or Western meal, instead of a festive lunch. He is allowed several hours a day of relaxation or recreation and can occasionally exercise by playing sport. He can also watch television for brief periods. Most of his time is spend swatting mosquitoes in the cell and pondering his next legal move. Leeson is considering an appeal against sentence, but risks it being increased to the maximum eight years.

He is allowed books and there have been complaints from other prisoners that he gets more than they do. They also grumbled when he was allowed to meet his wife for three hours instead of the usual ten minutes.

Other Barings employees James Bax and Simon Jones are still in Singapore and could face civil action over their role in the crash. In England, Peter Norris is ready to fight any attempt to extradite him.

He is among 12 senior Barings figures suspended by the Securities and Futures Authority whose careers depend on disciplinary action decisions.

They could all spend next Christmas watching themselves portrayed by actors on television as Sir David Frost considers whether to turn the Leeson story into a drama for the small screen.



Parents elebrate Leah's ift of life



PETER LOCKE

The half-boy, half-puppet being prepared for the cameras during filming of the latest *Pinocchio* production

Pinocchio's masters mix fact and fiction in seamless style

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

MORE than 50 years after *Pinocchio* first told whoppers for Disney, Carlo Collodi's tale about a wooden puppet that turns into a real boy is being remade with a puppet that looks so real it could almost be human.

Animatronics devised by Jim Henson's Creature Shop in London make the latex marionette smile and laugh, blink and cry. This puppet can contort its features into every human expression while always looking as if it is made of pine. It has movement in every part of its body, with each limb worked by one of six puppeteers.

The $30 million (£19 million) movie is directed by Steve Barron, whose previous puppet films include *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*. His human cast in *Pinocchio* is headed by the Academy Award-winning Martin Landau as Geppetto, the woodcarver and Pinocchio's creator, and Genevieve Bujold as his long-lost love, Leona. Jonathan Taylor Thomas, who made his name in Disney's *The Lion King*, is the voice of the puppet and the five Pinocchio at the end of the movie.



© WALT DISNEY CO.

The way it was: Disney's 1940 Technicolor version

Mr Barron said: "In the cartoon, there was no wooden boy and no real boy. Here you make it strong because the animatronic puppet lets you do both of those characters just right."

Having a three-dimensional puppet, rather than a computer-generated one, also allowed the actors to interact with a real character.

Mr Landau said that he treated the puppet as another actor: "They have raised the technology of animatronics to an amazing degree. A live-action *Pinocchio* with an actual stringless marionette is unique."

Pinocchio is rodded and cabled, and worked by video monitors. Electric servo-motors activate movement. The puppeteers, who worked below floor level, likened the system to *Bunraku*, the Japanese operation of a three-dimensional puppet: one person on the legs, one on each arm, one on the torso, and a master puppeteer on the head. It is jointed, and has fully working fingers.

British stars include John Sessions, who plays the schoolmaster. "To call this a puppet is like calling the moon-landing a journey. It's creepily real," he said.

John Stephenson, the puppeteers' supervisor and second unit director, said: "It can do anything that a real actor can do. Yet it always needs to look like a puppet; an interesting game."

The main location of the film was the Czech town of Cesky Krumlov, south of Prague, to recreate northern Italy in the 19th century. There will be two weeks of filming at Pinewood studios in January.

Michael Bolingbroke, director of operations and finance at the Creature Shop, expects *Pinocchio* to be the film for the 1990s, just as *ET* was in the 1980s.

Toad escapes clutches of copyright law

By Emma Wilkins

TOAD of Toad Hall and his friends from the riverbank have escaped the clutches of the lawmakers in Brussels and are able to continue delighting children of all ages for the rest of the pantomime season in London.

Performances of the Alan Bennett adaptation of *The Wind in the Willows* at the Old Vic can carry on, despite a ruling that places Kenneth Grahame, the book's author, back in copyright.

The European directive, which becomes law on New Year's Day, means that copyright is extended from 50 to 70 years after the author's death, bringing Britain into line with France and Germany. As a result Grahame, who died in 1932, is back in copyright and all his works are protected until 2002.

However, a clause in the new law protects adaptations made while works were out of copyright. When Bennett wrote his adaptation five years ago, Grahame had been out of copyright for eight years.

The Bodleian Library in Oxford, which has a 1908 first edition of *The Wind in the Willows*, is the ultimate beneficiary of Grahame's will and can look forward to collecting royalties from future theatrical versions that use the characters of Toad, Ratty, Mole and their friends.

David Vaisey, Bodley's librarian (as the head of the Bodleian is titled) is phlegmatic about the escape clause, which is currently being examined by the university's lawyers.

"We're getting our legal people to take a look at it but there's one thing that I am certain of, which is that one can't claim for the missing period in between 1982 and 1995. It's a bit of a shame, given the success of Alan Bennett's *Christmas show*," he said.

Grahame wrote *The Wind in the Willows* for his son Alastair, nicknamed Mouse, who died aged 20 in tragic circumstances: while an undergraduate at Oxford in 1920 he suffered a religious crisis, lay down on a railway line and was decapitated.

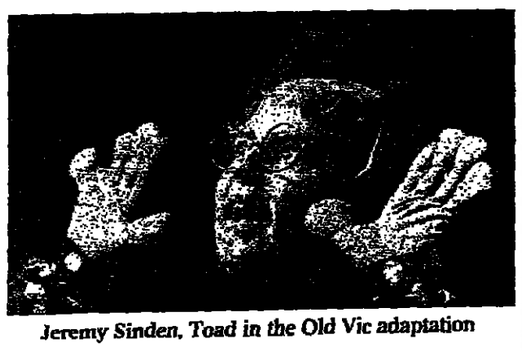
Grahame's family had decided they could not afford to send him to Oxford and he became a clerk at the Bank of England instead. When he died in 1932, Grahame bequeathed his royalties to Oxford University for the use of the Bodleian Library.

Other artists whose work will enter revived copyright in the new year include Gustav Holst, Sir Edward Elgar and Frederick Delius, who all died in 1934; D.H. Lawrence (1930); Rudyard Kipling (1936); James Joyce (1941); and Beatrix Potter (1943).

Peter Groves, a legal consultant at Bircham & Co who is also an expert in intellectual property and competition law, said the library could look forward to royalties from any future exploitation of Grahame's works.

"The Bodleian, as the former copyright owner, will become the revived copyright owner and will be entitled to royalties from January 1.

"Any future adaptation which includes the copyright work will be liable to make payments to the Bodleian. As the holders of the copyright the library could prevent any further use of Grahame's works."



Jeremy Sinden, Toad in the Old Vic adaptation

Forgotten son sends father into a spin

A FORGETFUL motorcyclist caused a scare when he reported that his son had fallen off the back of his bike.

The man was on an 80-mile trip from Colchester in Essex to Strood in Kent to visit his daughter for Christmas when he realised the 13-year-old boy was missing. He telephoned his daughter, who contacted police and hospitals.

The man telephoned from the Dartford Bridge toll barrier when he realised there was nobody in the pillion seat. He then began to retrace his route.

Half an hour later, however, after much telephoning by his daughter, the boy was found never to have left home. PC David Jones, of Colchester police, said: "It seems dad had set off in such a hurry he left the lad behind. He didn't realise he wasn't on the bike until he reached the Kent side of the Dartford Bridge.

"He told his daughter he must have fallen off on the M25 or A12. She was frantic with worry. She alerted police and then started phoning everyone she could think of. She even rang Colchester Hospital to see if he was there.

"Luckily we were able to ascertain within a few minutes that the boy was still at home. But dad didn't find out until he got all the way back." Police have agreed not to name the motorcyclist.



Worried travel trade tempts holidaymakers to book early

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

THE travel industry, faced with a 25 per cent drop in bookings compared with the same time last year, is trying to tempt holidaymakers to reserve their summer break immediately after Christmas.

Lunn Poly, Britain's biggest travel retailer, has introduced a "book now, pay later" scheme to enable holidaymakers to spread payments. When the company's 792 travel shops open tomorrow, they will offer customers a discount of 10 per cent, free holiday insurance, or an interest-free chance of spreading the cost.

Peter Povey, Lunn Poly's marketing director, said last night: "Around a million people book their overseas summer holiday in January and around a quarter of our customers have told us that they would prefer the option of spreading the holiday cost rather than taking a discount."

The "easy pay" scheme is available on holidays costing more than £200 and allows payments to be made in four monthly instalments.

Thomson is also trying to woo early bookers through a scheme known as "fluid pricing" under which more than a million holidays are offered at big discounts now but will gradually increase in price as demand grows.

Charles Newbold, Thomson's managing director, said that the idea had been picked up from the American cruise industry and was intended to prevent the growing trend of holidaymakers deliberately booking as late as possible to obtain the biggest discount.

"This is a dramatically different way of doing things," he said. "Instead of the price being high to start with and being reduced later on, we are cutting it by the maximum at first and then increasing it in line with demand. So people who book first will get the discount and those who wait might not."

Other measures being taken by an increasingly worried travel industry include discounts of up to 10 per cent on many brochures, free child places and, from First Choice, free grandparent places on a number of summer holidays.

The main assault, however, comes in the widespread and hard-hitting campaign to convince holidaymakers that they must book early.

Going Places, for example, says that with a million fewer holidays available next year, customers may not be able to get the holidays they want, or even a holiday at all unless they book in January.

"The Germans are beating a path to the top beaches in Europe and their holiday sales are booming," Tony Bennett, managing director of Going Places, said. "They are taking advantage of slow sales in Britain and snapping up our holiday beds."

Discounts of up to 15 per cent for summer 1996 holidays will be offered by Thomas Cook. The new packages, which can be booked from Saturday, involve 15 per cent off some prices in its own brochure and 10 per cent off those of other companies. From December 30, Thomas Cook is providing child-goes-free places for bookings made on five successive Saturdays. The company is also offering discounts on cruises of up to 25 per cent.

Nigel Hards, Thomas Cook's retail director, said: "We have to be realistic. With capacity already cut and demand likely to remain consistent with last year, cheap late deals will not be as prevalent as in 1995. We therefore anticipate a strong post-Christmas period, with more bookings from couples and families who want to secure their place in the sun next summer."

Bargain hunters stalk kitchen cabinets

BY ROBIN YOUNG

AFTER the stress of producing yesterday's lunch, today is the day the nation goes to buy new kitchens.

While department stores and boutiques, except some in Scotland, wait until tomorrow to launch their winter sales, Boxing Day has become one of the most important in the year for do-it-yourself stores selling kitchen units.

The 184 stores in the MFI chain have been closed since last Wednesday to give 5,500 staff breathing space, while B&Q leads its winter sale, also launched today in 260 Supercentre stores, with a third off selected kitchens. The Texas chain, with 229 stores all open today, is countering with discounts of between 10 and 25 per cent on kitchen packages. Many managers expect to do more business today than they have done in the previous six weeks.

Sue Murphy, the finance director of MFI, said: "Boxing Day has become one of our busiest days of the year. December is quiet for us but today is when the crowds come flocking back." Simon Morris of Texas said: "Christmas Eve was quiet enough for us to set up the sale. After a big meal and lots of cooking at home, Boxing Day is the day families come out to look for a new set of units."

The prospects for other winter sales starting tomorrow in many department stores and fashion shops around the country are mixed. "We will be making the smallest mark-downs for the sales that we have ever had," said Maurice Bennett, deputy chairman of the Oasis fashion chain. "That is because Christmas has been so good." The sale, which starts in Scottish branches today but elsewhere tomorrow, is still making some cuts of between 30 and 50 per cent.

James Mays, director of the British Retail Consortium, said: "It looks to have been a record Christmas with sales between 3 per cent and 4 per cent up. That means a gain of between 1 per cent and 2 per cent, so it is encouraging, but people have not been going mad."

Marks & Spencer, which starts its sale in all stores tomorrow, promised "really good value across the board". Liberty, the Regent Street store, said: "Everything has been selling really well before Christmas so we have had to make a lot of special purchases for the winter sale."

Winter sales, pages 28, 29



SIMON WALKER

Patrick Flannery, aged 2, who has leukaemia, enjoys Christmas at the Royal Marsden

Parents given light of hope by caring staff

BY JOHN YOUNG

PATRICK FLANNERY, 2½, Daniel Clark, 6, and Christopher Efstathiou, 9, have something in common. For each, yesterday was his first Christmas since being diagnosed as having cancer.

Not long ago, they and their parents might have expected it to be their last. Today, thanks to the huge advances in research and treatment at the children's cancer unit of the Royal Marsden Hospital in Sutton, south London, they have a better-than-even chance of recovery.

Christmas at the unit begins with the night-nurses bringing in sacks of toys, mostly donated by wellwishers. Treatment must continue as usual, but there is a Christmas lunch for patients, families, and staff, an afternoon visit from Santa Claus and a help-yourself buffet all evening. Patricia Cushing, the ward manager, says: "We try to enjoy ourselves as much as possible."

Enjoyment has become unfamiliar for parents. Last summer, Patrick began to show bruises and suffered nosebleeds. Lukaemia was diagnosed. Since then his mother, Nicola, and her husband, Mark, who live near Guildford and have two other sons, have been taking turns to stay at the hospital.

"Patrick was always a very lively boy so it was a shock to learn how ill he was," she said. "But the staff have been wonderful. Nothing is too much trouble and Patrick never seems to mind coming back."

Daniel became ill in May and was found to have a tumour in his stomach. It is responding well to treatment. The news was also a great shock to his mother, Diane, 29. Hospital staff, she says, seem to be able to help people to get over the worst that can happen to them.

Preoccupied with crackers and other Christmas excitement, Daniel was, however, able to disclose that he had written a letter to Santa Claus: he could not remember what he had asked to be given.

Myeloid leukaemia was diagnosed as Christopher's illness in March. He recently finished chemotherapy but had to be readmitted with flu. His mother, Maria, 37, who has another son, said: "It is something you have to learn to live with. But it's always on your mind. The hospital has been marvellous: the staff have gone out of their way to help."

The prognosis for Ramond Bryson, 5, offers less hope. In March he developed Wilms' tumour, which has spread from his kidney to his lungs and has so far failed to respond to two courses of chemotherapy. He has been allowed home between treatments but has had to attend the hospital for blood transfusions, and was recently readmitted with an infection, the result of weakened immunity.

His mother, Faith Jadersingh, 30, of Bromley, says: "This time last year Ramond was running around, playing karate. Now, put it this way: we just don't know when he is going to die."

Ms Jadersingh, a college lecturer, has two other children: the younger is being looked after by her grandmother in Jamaica because Ms Jadersingh has to spend so much time at the hospital.

She says: "Sometimes he asks me: 'Mummy, am I going to die?' I have to be truthful and say I don't know. 'Will you come with me to look after me?' he says. I say I just don't know. If it is God's will.

"'I must be very brave then,' he says."

By Friday, the *Times* Christmas Appeal had raised more than £75,500 for the children's cancer unit. We and the hospital are grateful for our readers' generosity but more money is always needed for research to save more children. We hope that the appeal will reach six figures this week.

THE TIMES Christmas Appeal in aid of the Royal Marsden Hospital

Yes, I want to help

I enclose a cheque / postal order (payable to the Royal Marsden Children's Cancer Unit) for £ .....

Or, please debit my Visa / Mastercard / Amex / Diners Club card

Expiry date ..... / ..... Today's date ..... / ..... / .....

Signature .....

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

..... POSTCODE .....

DAYTIME PHONE No .....

To make an instant credit card donation, please telephone 0171-376 5173, or send this coupon with your donation to:

The Royal Marsden
Children's Cancer Unit Appeal,
Downs Road,
Sutton, Surrey SM2 5PT.

Reg. Charity No. 274034

Please note: a donation of £250 or more is worth a third as much again through Gift Aid as we can claim back the tax.

☐ Tick this box if you would like a receipt.

Drugs trial aims to increase survival of remission patients

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Royal Marsden Hospital has started a trial to discover whether an extra course of drugs can improve the chances of a complete cure for patients with myeloma, cancer of the bone marrow cells.

While existing treatments at the hospital achieve remission in more than half of the patients, there is always a risk of recurrence in these apparently healthy people.

Dr Ray Powles, who runs the myeloma and leukaemia units at the hospital, said: "In these patients we cannot detect any sign of the cancer by conventional hospital tests. We have so far got 200 patients into this condition, which is a big step forward because it wasn't possible in the 1970s."

The results have been achieved by a triple course of treatment, including high doses of drugs to kill the cancer, a transplant of bone marrow stem cells taken from the patient to restore the immune system after chemotherapy, and finally the use of interferon, a naturally occurring anti-viral material that inhibits cell multiplication.

In patients for whom this regimen leads to complete remission, myeloma cells can no longer be detected, but it is possible to identify abnormal immune system cells called pre-B cell lymphocytes whose normal job is to produce antibodies to defend against infection. These abnormal cells are the seeds from which recurrence of the cancer can spring.

"These cells are similar to those seen in leukaemia patients, so I thought it would be worth trying a similar strategy against them," Dr Powles said. In all, 138 patients are to be recruited and split randomly into two equal groups, one of which will be given an extra course of chemotherapy.

The extra course of treatment will take about five days and be given in hospital. All those taking part in the trial are volunteers already in complete remission from the disease. The first 11 patients have already been recruited. The first analysis of results will take place in about two years, but it will be a further four years at least before conclusions can be drawn.

Dr Powles is hoping that the result will improve survival. At present, those in remission can expect to remain healthy for between seven and eight years, but "all but a few" are likely to find that the disease returns.

Myeloma is not among the commonest of cancers, but there are about 2,500 new cases every year, divided equally between men and women.

THE B&Q BIG SALE

HURRY WHILE STOCKS LAST

40 TO CHOOSE FROM

1/3 OFF SELECTED KITCHENS

Offer available while stocks last on Camberley (Shown), Ashley, Sherburn, Craftsman Honey, Craftsman Cognac, Chaucer, Marlowe, Rossetti, Shelley, Dryden, Huckleberry, Delille, Valery, Chamfort and Moliere kitchens.

Example 9 unit Camberley Kitchen
WAS £539.91
NOW £359.93
Excluding installation

9 UNIT KITCHEN
1 500mm DRAWER PACK
2 1000mm HIGHLINE BASE/SINK UNIT
3 1000mm HIGHLINE BASE CORNER UNIT
4 600mm BUILT UNDER OVEN HOUSING
5 1000mm HIGHLINE BASE UNIT
6 500mm WALL UNIT
7 1000mm WALL UNIT
8 600mm BRIDGING UNIT
9 1000mm WALL UNIT
All units are self-assembly. Other units available. Example includes items as stated and excludes worktops, plinths, pelmets, cornices, sinks, taps, waste fittings, appliances and accessories.

STARTS TODAY 10AM – 5PM

Sizes shown are approximate. Offers subject to availability, please 'phone to check before travelling. Prices and offers may vary at B&Q Warehouses, B&Q Depots or The Depot. See in store for details of our price promise. All kitchens may not be displayed in all stores but can be ordered from any B&Q. The Over 60's Club Card cannot be used to purchase kitchens.

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST D.I.Y CHAIN – FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0181 466 4166

OPENING HOURS
Monday-Saturday most stores 8am-8pm, except Today 26th Dec, Boxing Day 10am-5pm, Sunday 31st Dec 10am-4pm (Scotland 9am-4pm), Monday 1st Jan. 10am-6pm (Scotland closed) Tuesday 2nd Jan 8am-8pm (Scotland 10am-5pm).

INTEREST FREE CREDIT* ON OUR NEW KITCHENS†

INCLUDING INSTALLATION AND APPLIANCES

We have 40 superb new designs from the modern to the traditional and all can be available on Interest Free Credit on purchases of £1,800 or more in one transaction, on B&Q kitchen units, appliances and installation†.

Example Repayment Table:
Purchase Price £1,800
20% Minimum Deposit £360
Loan Value £1,440
Repaid in 18 monthly instalments £80
Total amount payable £1,800

*IFC subject to acceptance and to UK residents only. Ask in-store for details. Written quotations available on request, ring (01132) 471 471. †Excludes kitchens from in-store stock, delivery costs (where applicable) and kitchens included in the 1/3 off offer. Ask in-store for details.

Purchase Price	IFC Period
£1,800 - £2,399.99	18 months
£2,400 or over	24 months

You can do it when you B&Q it!

B&Q

Uncertainty on new Ankara government as Ciller resigns but keeps coalition chances open

Turkish pro-Islamic party falls short of majority

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

A PHOTO-FINISH election has left Turks wondering about their future as the results of Christmas Eve's poll indicate that a pro-Islamic party will be the largest grouping in the new parliament.

Tansu Ciller, the Turkish Prime Minister, submitted her resignation to President Demirel yesterday, although she stays on in a caretaker role.

By custom the President should ask Necmettin Erbakan, 70, to form the next government. His Welfare Party came first, with 21.3 per cent of the 28 million valid votes cast, but that gave him only 158 deputies — well short of a majority in the 550-seat Grand National Assembly.

Some people see the result as a challenge to the secular vision of the founding father of modern Turkey, Kemal Ataturk, but others regard it as a test of the state's ability to accommodate rival ideologies.

Only two percentage points separated Welfare from its two main rivals. Mrs Ciller's True Path party came third in terms of votes. Even so, this left her party the second largest in parliament with 135 seats — three more than a rival right-of-centre party, the Motherland, led by Mesut Yilmaz.



Ciller: staying on in caretaker role



Ataturk: founded the secular state in 1923

Yesterday Mr Yilmaz rejected a possible coalition with Mr Erbakan. Mrs Ciller, who fought her campaign as the way forward into Europe, is also unlikely to alienate supporters by forming an alliance with a party she branded a "force of darkness".

The Welfare Party appears to have capitalised on the perception inside Turkey that Mrs Ciller, along with her husband, was running a Government for the benefit of a close coterie.

Most Turks believe Mr Erbakan's extravagant anti-Western and anti-Zionist rhetoric to be far worse than his bite. Even as the election results were coming in, Bahri Zengin, a close adviser, was modifying a pledge to "tear up" a recently approved customs union with Brussels, saying the party would "renegotiate" the agreement.

Even greater than the fear of Islamic policies is the concern that the Western financial community on which Turkey relies will simply wait to see how a government will take shape. If that process is lengthy, the Turkish economy will suffer.

Many believe, therefore, that Mr Demirel might break with tradition and mandate a Prime Minister who stands the best chance of forming a government. "Him and her," was the most likely possibility said a close adviser to Mrs Ciller yesterday, a reference to his leader and Mr Yilmaz.

The trouble is not just the deep animosity between the two leaders but that the parliamentary arithmetic does not add up. Together, the Centre-Right is nine seats short of the "majority" of 276 deputies. Some commentators suggest the two could form a minority administration with the support of a left-of-centre party.

Deniz Baykal, whose Republican People's Party has been in coalition with Mrs Ciller, received 50 seats. Bulent Ecevit, leader of the Democratic Left party, increased his standing from ten in the last parliament to 75.

The ultra-right National Action party, which believes it could solve Turkey's Kurdish problem in weeks by force, failed to get 10 per cent of the national vote and was disqualified from receiving any seats.

A Kurdish nationalist People's Democracy Party, despite a strong showing in the southeast, also failed to qualify, getting just over 4 per cent.

☐ **Tehran:** Iran's state-run radio welcomed the Islamic party's success, saying it was likely to shift secular Ankara towards a more pro-Islamic stand. *(Reuter)*



Necmettin Erbakan yesterday celebrating the success of his Welfare Party in the Turkish elections. The pro-Islamic party is the largest in the new parliament but failed to gain enought seats to form a government

14 killed in Inkatha assault

Durban: At least 14 people died yesterday in South Africa's KwaZulu/Natal province in a raid by Inkatha Freedom Party warriors on supporters of the rival African National Congress, police said.

Several hundred Inkatha supporters armed with spears, axes and guns launched the attack on the Shobashobane settlement, burning more than 90 dwellings and looting 15 others. The attack, the third mass killing in the south-eastern province in 11 days, was launched in defiance of a security force crackdown and a renewed peace initiative this month by President Mandela and Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader. The 14 dead, who were shot and stabbed, included women and children. *(Reuter)*

Fire kills gorillas

Philadelphia: A fire at the zoo here on Christmas Eve destroyed the primates' house, killing 23 rare animals. Among them were three gorillas who had lived at the zoo for 27 years.

Crash pointer

Washington: Colombian and US officials inspecting the flight data recorder from last week's crash of an American Airlines Boeing 757, in which 160 people died, say human error was the cause. *(AFP)*

Malawi divided

Blantyre: The acquittal of Hastings Banda, below, the former President, on charges of conspiring to murder four opposition politicians during three decades of autocratic rule, has divided Malawians.



Police treat Devil's Well cult deaths as murder

FROM ADAM SAGE IN ST-PIERRE-DE-CHÉRENNES

FRENCH police have launched a murder inquiry after the discovery of the charred, bullet-ridden remains of 16 members of the Order of the Solar Temple.

Detectives believe that at least some of the victims, including three children, were assassinated in a copy of the bizarre ceremony that left 53 of the sect's followers dead last year.

The bodies were found by a huntsman in dense forest outside the village of St-Pierre-de-Chérennes, 20 miles from Grenoble, on Saturday.

The victims had been drugged, shot and burnt, almost certainly several days before they were discovered, police believe.

Jean-François Lorans, the Grenoble prosecutor, said: "All the bodies have one or several bullet wounds. Boxes containing sedatives or drugs were found, as well as traces of dark plastic bags on the faces of certain victims."

M Lorans said he thought the "two or three assassins" had probably committed suicide after shooting the other sect members. "We believe that the circumstances in which these acts were carried out involve a degree of preparation, deliberation and premeditation that implies criminal organisation."

The site at which the massacre took place appears to confirm his theory. The victims' cars were found in a parking lot on a narrow and winding mountain road in the Vercors region, east of Grenoble. From there, the sect's followers walked for 20 minutes along a mud track almost certainly carrying their children. They stopped near a grotto, known as the Devil's Well, at a clearing in the forest now marked by the ashes of their pyre. The victims sat in the shape of a star to meet their deaths.

Yesterday a French gendarme patrolling the area said: "They must have planned all this with immense care. Only locals know this spot and at night you need to be well prepared to find it. From what I can gather, they killed themselves in the early hours of December 15."

A pensioner from St-Pierre-de-Chérennes said: "It is obvious they wanted to die. In the dark in those woods, it would have been possible to escape as they walked towards the clearing. They cannot have tried to break free."

The victims included two French police officers, one of whom died with his wife, and two children, aged two and four. They also included Edith and Patrick Vuarnet, wife and son of the French ski champion, Jean Vuarnet. Patrick Vuarnet's partner, Ute, and her six-year-old daughter were among the dead.

☐ *Geneva:* Swiss investigators rejected suggestions that they could have done more to prevent the new massacre involving the Order of the Solar Temple (Peter Capella writes).

André Piller, the investigating magistrate leading the inquiry, admitted that their findings did not rule out another massacre or collective suicide. The sect was not outlawed, because there was no apparent threat by the remaining members to public order, and it did not qualify as a criminal organisation. Mr Piller indicated that this could now change.

Police have been unable to explain why they did not worry about the winter solstice on December 21, known to be a favoured date in the sect for passage to another world.



Police examine the forest clearing where members of the Order of the Solar Temple were found dead

Sirius is sect's guiding light

BY ADAM SAGE

EVEN among experts, the Order of the Solar Temple was scarcely known until last year.

Although its guru, Luc Jouret, had attracted attention with his obsessional rambling about death, the sect itself had remained hidden, operating like a well-oiled secret society.

Joseph Di Mambro, its manipulative grandmaster, rarely spoke at conferences and never put his name to the many tracts and brochures produced by the Order. Some of the sect's more recent members had no idea of his role or importance.

The events of October 5, 1994, changed all that. Two peaceful Swiss villages, Cheiry and Granges-sur-Salvan, woke to discover that 48 people had died in chalets destroyed by overnight fires, ignited deliberately.

Under one of the buildings officers found a strange prayer room, decorated with mirrors and an altar round which 23 bodies had been arranged in a circle. All had been shot.

In the other chalet, in Granges-sur-Salvan, the victims had apparently been sedated before dying in the blaze.

Five more of the sect's followers were killed, or committed suicide, at the same time in Quebec, Canada.

According to an Italian expert, Massimo Introvigne, the order believes that the end of the world is close and that the cataclysm will be directed by a chosen few from the star, Sirius. In order to reach Sirius, followers must become "immortal masters": in other words, they have to die.

Russians tell of bloody Chechen battle

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

NEARLY two weeks after Chechen rebels seized the breakaway republic's second largest town, sparking a ferocious battle with Russian troops, the full scale of the human and material loss in Gudermes is coming to light.

According to General Anatoli Shkirko, the Russian commander in Chechenia, at least 267 Chechens were killed in the street fighting as Russian ground forces, backed by helicopter gunships and artillery, drove out a force of more than 800 Chechen separatists.

The Russians have reportedly lost between 40 and 100 troops in the operation, including 32 servicemen listed as missing, whose bodies were later found "mutilated beyond recognition". Colonel Vladimir Peretrushin, the deputy commander of Interior Ministry forces based in the town 20 miles east of Grozny, the capital, said at the weekend that half the buildings on some streets of Gudermes had been completely destroyed in the Russian bombardment.

The heavy-handed counter-attack showed that the Russians have not improved their fighting techniques since their devastating siege of Grozny this time last year. But they have become more media-conscious and this time local and foreign reporters were kept well away from the battle ground, ensuring no embarrassing television pictures or critical news reports. The rebel operation to capture and hold Gudermes was launched on December 14 and intended to disrupt Chechenia's participation in the nationwide parliamentary elections held three days later.

The separatist leadership, under General Dhzokhar Dudayev, made it clear that it regarded the election as de facto recognition of Russia's sovereignty over their state, which has been fighting for independence from Moscow for more than a year.

The Gudermes operation failed to halt the election of a pro-Kremlin candidate to the Duma, the lower house of parliament, but it did wreck any hopes of a peace deal being agreed under the terms of the disengagement accord reached by both sides in August.

With only six months to go before presidential elections in Russia, President Yeltsin is now faced with some difficult choices. Hardliners in his entourage, such as General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, are pressing for a risky military option to wipe out the main Chechen rebel strongholds south of Grozny once and for all.

☐ **Goiskoye:** In a revival of Sharia (Koran-based law), Umar Khasakhanov, one of General Dudayev's top field commanders, has received a public punishment of ten lashes with a long wooden stick for an altercation with one of his fighters. *(Reuter)*

THE BIGGEST BRANDS... THE BIGGEST SAVINGS!
THOUSANDS MORE BARGAINS IN STORE!
NO CATCHES, NO SPECIAL CARD NEEDED FOR GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES
*UP TO DOUBLE THE DIFFERENCE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
BRITAIN'S BIGGEST SALE
LEXMARK WINWRITER 200 LASER PRINTER (Code 203-569)
• 300 x 300 dpi resolution • 150 sheet feeder • Accepts paper, labels, envelopes & transparencies • Standard buffer memory 512K • Toner life approx 3,000 pages
SALE £199.00 SAVE 58%off
UP TO 58%off Business Products
DELUXE OPERATORS CHAIR (Code 303-770/773)
• Gas seat height and backrest adjustment • Large base seat • Choice of Peat and Charcoal colours • Separate arm sets £18.00 plus VAT (Code 303-869)
SALE £39.99 SAVE 77%off
UP TO 77%off Furniture
OFFICE WORLD ECONOMY LETTER TRAYS (Code 071-717/723/726/729)
• Tough polystyrene construction • Takes A4 and Foolscap material • Stackable in different positions • Available in 4 colours • Pack of 4 risers sold separately 55p plus VAT (Code 071-753)
SALE 85p PER TRAY SAVE 57%off
UP TO 57%off Office Supplies
ESSELTE PVC LEVER ARCH FILE (Code 033-113/116/119/122/125)
• Front cover lock • Label holder • Thumb hole • Available in 5 colours
SALE 97p SAVE 73%off
UP TO 73%off Stationery
1996 PLANNERS AND DIARIES Unbeatable prices and selection. All sizes and formats.
"I've never seen so much %off so many products"
ADVANTAGE LOAN PLAN APR 29.9% Take it away today. Take up to 5 years to pay.
► SPREAD THE COST OF YOUR PURCHASES OVER UP TO 5 YEARS ► NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED ► LOW MONTHLY PAYMENTS ► PAYMENT PROTECTION AVAILABLE
CREDIT EXAMPLE: On loan of £500 (excluding credit protection insurance) 60 monthly repayments of £13.02. Total amount repayable £781.20.
Minimum loan £150. All loans subject to status and only available to individuals applying in their own name. Written quotation available on request. Licensed Credit Broker.
OVER 5,000 OFFICE SUPPLIES, STATIONERY, FURNITURE & BUSINESS PRODUCTS – AT GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES.
*UP TO DOUBLE THE DIFFERENCE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE. In the unlikely event that you find the same product in stock at a local retailer and on sale to the public for less, within 7 days of your purchase from Office World, we'll refund the difference in full plus up to 100% of that difference to a maximum of £25
PHONE OR FAX YOUR ORDER
TEL: (0345) 444700 FAX: (0345) 556688
LINES OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY 8.00am-8.00pm (except New Year's Eve 10.30am-4.30pm)
FREE NEXT DAY DELIVERY
41 SUPERSTORES NATIONWIDE
BEDFORD · BIRMINGHAM · BLACKPOOL · BRADFORD · BRISTOL · CAMBRIDGE · CHELMSFORD · CHELTENHAM · CHESTER · COVENTRY · DERBY · DUDLEY · EXETER · GLASGOW · GLOUCESTER · HARLOW · LEICESTER · LINCOLN · LONDON (Colindale, Old Kent Road, Park Royal, Tottenham, Western Avenue) · LUTON · MANCHESTER · MILTON KEYNES · NORTHAMPTON · NOTTINGHAM · OXFORD · PORTSMOUTH · PRESTON · READING · SHEFFIELD · SLOUGH · SOLIHULL · SOUTHAMPTON · SWINDON · TAUNTON · WARRINGTON · WIGAN · YORK
OPEN TODAY 9.00AM-6.00PM
WEDNESDAY TO FRIDAY 8.00AM-8.00PM, SATURDAY 9.00AM-6.00PM
NEW YEAR'S EVE 10.30AM-4.30PM, NEW YEAR'S DAY 9.00AM-6.00PM
Office World
The No 1 Office Supplies Discount Superstore
There's always more %off at Office World
All previous prices quoted in the above examples were charged at all Office World Superstores open at 25th November 1995 and for a period of 28 days in the previous 6 months (the most recent Bedford opened since). All products subject to availability. All prices and recommended retail prices are exclusive of VAT at 17.5%. Prices valid until 15th January 1996. *In England, Scotland and Wales, excluding Scottish Highlands, Islands off the mainland and Northern Ireland. Please allow up to 4 days for furniture.

Children trampled as blaze consumes hall where most exits were locked

Death toll reaches 425 in Indian fire disaster

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI



Security men guard the burnt-out hall in Dabwali, Haryana. Flames spread quickly after an electrical short circuit and explosion of a gas cylinder

THE death toll in one of India's worst fire disasters rose to 425 last night, at least half of them children aged between five and 12. Many more were critical in hospitals. Scores of the dead and injured were trampled in a stampede to escape the blaze.

It happened in a public hall, the Rajiv Marriage Palace, hired by a school for the day on Saturday for its annual prize-giving. About 1,300 people were packed into the premises and all but two of the exits were sealed to stop gate-crashers. Only one fire engine was available in the area when the alarm was raised.

The blaze, in the small town of Dabwali in the northern state of Haryana, spread instantly after an electrical short circuit. A gas cylinder used for cooking exploded, causing many casualties. Most of the victims were standing outside, beneath a large canvas awning that caught fire and fell to the ground, igniting people's clothes. Most of the adult victims were the children's mothers. Police said at least 105 injured were still being treated in hospitals. Most were out of danger. At least 80 people were said by hospital staff to be severely burnt and dozens of bodies had yet to be identified. The Haryana government declared three days of mourning and P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister, sent condolences. An official inquiry is to be set up, but it is unlikely to produce any surprises in what was an avoidable disaster.

Such fire regulations as exist in India's small towns are ignored widely with impunity. Fire services are mostly poorly equipped and usually cannot find enough water in an emergency. By the time adequate numbers of fire appliances arrived from nearby towns, Saturday's catastrophe was all over.

Witnesses described seeing badly burnt children screaming on the ground with nobody to tend them. Given the absence of emergency services, many of the victims were taken to hospitals in cars and three-wheel scooter-taxis by passers-by.

Most domestic fires in India are the result of electricity problems caused by a combination of poor workmanship and erratic voltage. Fires caused by power surges are responsible for countless deaths in private homes. Training for electricians is poor and not subject to any credible formal qualification.

A local police chief, his wife and daughter were among those who died. Almost all children from the DAV Public School were taking part in the prize-giving, the main social event on the school calendar. Large numbers of townspeople turned up at hospitals to offer blood for the the victims after doctors said stocks were running out.

The stampede to the two exits claimed the lives of many children swept underfoot. The fire was first spotted in one corner of the canvas awning and a breeze fanned the flames. More than 300 bodies, half of them children, have been identified and handed over to next of kin. Many were cremated in a mass ceremony on Christmas Eve night in a field swept by a chilly winter breeze.

Bhajan Lal, Chief Minister of Haryana, flew to the town and pledged 100,000 rupees (£1,850) to the next of kin of those who died, and 50,000 rupees for the seriously injured. Hospital treatment would be free.

Mr Lal asked for a full report on the cause of the disaster and announced that some of the worst injured would be taken to two hospitals in Delhi, 140 miles to the south, where specialist treatment is available.

Cover-up claim over 'Aristide killings'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AN AMERICAN delegation arrived in Haiti yesterday amid increasing violence in the Caribbean nation and Republican accusations that the Clinton Administration deliberately suppressed information linking President Aristide to political murders while in office.

Tony Lake, the National Security Adviser, and General John Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were returning to Washington today after spending Christmas with American troops and meeting Mr Aristide and his newly elected successor, René Préval.

Their visit came as two security guards from the presidential palace in Port-au-Prince were shot dead outside the capital and five House Republicans announced they would freeze $5 million (£3.25 million) in funds for the American training of Haiti's new police force.

The congressmen, including Larry Combest, chairman of the House intelligence committee, said the United States Government had "stonewalled" their requests for information about two dozen political killings that had taken place since the previously exiled Mr Aristide was restored to power by an American-led force last year.



Vanunu muzzled as Israel court rejects appeals

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI security agents muzzled Mordechai Vanunu, an Israeli convicted of spilling Israel's atomic secrets, fearing he may tell more, an Israeli daily reported yesterday.

The report said the mask — like the one Anthony Hopkins wore when he played a cannibalistic serial killer in *The Silence of the Lambs* — was to keep Vanunu from speaking to the media at a Supreme Court hearing on Sunday.

Vanunu, serving an 18-year sentence after being convicted of treason, had petitioned the court to be freed and returned to Italy, where he claims he was kidnapped by Israeli agents in 1986. He also petitioned that the court should not recognise the appointment of Shimon Peres as the Prime Minister because he had ordered Vanunu's kidnapping.

In a hearing behind closed doors, with heavy security, the court rejected both appeals. However, security officials insisted that Vanunu wear the muzzle, apparently in case he came into contact with reporters, the *Yediot Ahronot* said.

Vanunu, 38, was brought into the courtroom through an underground rear entrance and the media, waiting outside the courtroom, never saw him. Israel radio said. The report said Vanunu at first refused to let prison guards place the muzzle on him before he finally relented. After the hearing, he was returned to his solitary cell in Beersheba prison. Iris Beiber, spokeswoman for the prison authority, refused to comment.

In 1986 Vanunu provided *The Sunday Times* of London with photographs and information indicating Israel had secretly stockpiled nuclear weapons at the Dimona facility in the Negev desert in southern Israel. After his capture, he was brought to Israel and convicted of treason in 1988. Vanunu supporters claim he was captured by agents of Israel's Mossad intelligence service in Rome.

☐ **Amir's shift:** Yigal Amir, Yitzhak Rabin's confessed assassin, in an apparent change of direction, told his lawyers he did not mean to kill the Prime Minister, one of his defence team said. Mr Amir had told investigators he had plotted for months to kill Rabin.

Mr Amir met his lawyers for four hours on Christmas Eve in his isolation wing at Ohalei Kedar prison, near the southern Negev desert town of Beer Sheva. His lawyer quoted his client as saying: "I didn't mean to kill Rabin."

Young look puts toy trains back on track

BY TOM RHODES

THE Lionel toy train, one of America's most popular Christmas presents that has been left idling in the sidings for a decade, will soon gain a fresh head of steam, thanks to the new ownership of the rock star Neil Young.

Once among the world's largest model makers, Lionel was overtaken in the endless race for children's imagination by smaller-gauge railways and computer games.

Mr Young, whose work as a solo artist has revitalised an unplugged generation of rock greats, was once a member of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young. He aims to refashion the company with his partner Martin Davis, the corporate raider. The two are said to have gained control earlier this month after offering an undisclosed sum for Lionel in October.

In their heyday, Lionel trains were described by *The New York Times* as the third element of an American Christmas, alongside Santa Claus and the tree. First finding international acclaim for its 1937 model of the Hudson locomotive, the company became famous for creating trains twice the size of most model railways — often the locomotives and carriages were large enough to fill both hands of a child.



Young: running Lionel along the right lines

A model train enthusiast for many years, Mr Young is known to spend hours of leisure time poring over the 4,000 sq ft layout he has installed "for his children" at the family ranch in northern California. Almost a year ago he created a joint venture, called Liontech, with Richard Kughn, the owner of Lionel, to develop remote-control and digital-sound technology for the toy makers. It has already created the Controller, a device enabling two trains to run on the same track at differing speeds.

The Liontech venture is seeking to turn Lionel trains into sophisticated and interactive toys for the 21st century.

Troops separated from families treat children to gifts and a ride on their tanks

British soldiers recruit Santa for Nato's campaign

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN GORNJI VAKUF

BRITISH soldiers across Bosnia yesterday held Christmas parties for children to ease the pain of being separated from their families.

Santa Claus arrived at a party in Gornji Vakuf on top of a white 25-tonne Warrior armoured personnel carrier with a bagful of toys and sweets over his shoulder. As the Warrior ground to a halt, 120 Muslim children invited by a Royal Artillery brigade mobbed Santa.

Officers asked them to queue for presents, but had to give way to an overwhelming onslaught by the children, dressed in best outfits and sucking Harrods lollipops.

Croat children had declined to attend, but to the 10,000 British soldiers in Bosnia Christmas parties are a welcome opportunity to enjoy the festive season away from home. Lieutenant Phil Douthwaite said: "I have two kids at home. Seeing these kids here enjoying themselves means I don't miss my own so much."

At another party, across the front line in Krupa, soldiers from the The Light Dragoons invited Serb children to ride on their tanks. At first reluctant, they were lured on to the vehicles by presents and then started enjoying it so much that their fathers joined in. Afterwards they exchanged unloaded weapons with The Light Dragoons and shared a bottle of citrus vodka with them in a roadside bar.

Away from the parties, 15 padres with the British troops held carol services for the soldiers. The Rev Leslie Bryan, the Fourth Senior Chaplain, said: "It is very important that we celebrate Christmas wholeheartedly. Not only because we are away from our families but also because we are here to bring peace. Hence it is right and proper that we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace."

On Mount Igman, overlooking Sarajevo, 50 gunners from the 19/5 Battery of the Royal Artillery sang "O Come All Ye Faithful", "Once In Royal David's City" and "The First Nowell" within shouting distance of the Serb trenches.

The singing was apparently not much appreciated by the Serbs. A Chinook helicopter landing nearby had to fire off

BOSNIA

flares, used to confuse ground to air missiles, after being "locked on" by one.

After the service — held near the grounds of the 1984 Sarajevo Winter Olympics, most of which has been destroyed — the gunners had lunch of turkey and brussels sprouts with bacon rolls, served by officers as is the army tradition on Christmas Day.

Christmas Eve, however, was the real morale-booster for many soldiers. Divided by rank, they spent the evening away from their duties, which normally last till after midnight, in regimental bars.

In Gornji Vakuf the junior ranks' bar looked like an Oxford Street department store, decorated with Christmas trees and a 4ft blow-up Santa Claus. Beer was free, although officers insisted a two-can-per-man rule was still in force. However, empties outnumbered soldiers in the room by a ratio of at least five to one. Fortunately, the junior ranks did not have to worry about hangovers. Officers not only traditionally serve lunch on Christmas Day — they perform all other duties, such as guarding the base, too.

The junior ranks were, however, woken early when officers surprised them at 9am with cups of tea laced with rum and whisky, a drink known as "gunfire".

The soldiers are understandably shy about letting on how much they miss their families. But one showed me a poem by the 19th-century poet John Clare, which his girlfriend had sent to him:

I wish I was where I would be
With love alone to dwell
Was I but her or she but me
Then love would all be well
I wish to send my thoughts to her
As quick as thoughts can fly
But as the wind the water stirs
The mirrors change and flye.

Even this could not make him forget their living conditions, he said. The soldiers have put up tents inside a rat-infested gypsum factory but, despite their best efforts, still get gypsum in their bed and boots. A river near by is close to flooding their accommodation after snow began to melt.

Based in Sipovo, in the northern territory to be handed back to Bosnian Serbs, they have to look on as Croats torch their own houses and slaughter animals, not wanting to leave anything behind. Villages have been turned into ghost towns.

Gornji Vakuf, by contrast, has been dubbed "Las Vegas" by the Britons. Every house along the main road has at least one Christmas tree with blinking lights. On Christmas Eve, local Croat soldiers started celebrating by firing thousands of Kalashnikov rounds into the sky, later followed by a large explosion and pistol fire right outside the British barracks.

One British officer said: "It's the same as with dogs. Once one dog starts barking in the neighbourhood, all the others join in."

GILL ALLEN



Gunners with the 19/5 Battery of the Royal Artillery on Mount Igman, overlooking Sarajevo, enjoying a carol service

Sarajevo worshippers celebrate an end to war

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

IT WAS standing room only at midnight mass in Sarajevo's Old Town cathedral on Christmas Eve, as residents in the predominantly Muslim capital celebrated Christmas and commemorated Bosnia's new peace.

The people in the war-ravaged city had something to celebrate. The state of war was officially lifted only days ago and the 10pm curfew, in place since the war began, was temporarily suspended for the holiday season.

"The war is over, let there be peace," Cardinal Vinko Puljic told a packed congregation of Catholics, Muslims, Orthodox Serbs and Jews that was more reminiscent of a rock concert than a midnight mass. Outside, a couple of hundred worshippers listened to the service on loudspeakers as bouts of celebratory gunfire echoed in the background. It was the first peaceful Christmas in nearly four years.

"I am hoping it is the first Christmas in peacetime," said Elvina Dzafic, a Muslim who was standing at the cathedral door in a fur coat. "I spent last Christmas with a colleague who is Catholic. This one is much better because it is calm. There is no shooting and we have everything we need on the table."

Among those outside the cathedral was a trio of old women reminiscent of Bosnia's multi-ethnic heritage that has been so devastated by the war. The women — a Serb, a Croat and a Muslim — sat in headscarves, smoking cigarettes and smiling. "Hope is the most important thing. I would rather go without water during the day or bread, if only we could have peace," said one of them, 63-year-old Jovanka Vilic, a Serb married to a Catholic. Her 24-year-old son is still at the front line. She hopes he will return home soon. "We live in a special country. Everyone celebrates Christmas," said Lejla Hasegic, 19, a resident of Sarajevo. "Jesus Christ was a messenger before Muhammad and Muslims must respect that. That is the nature of Bosnian people."

Across the city, cafés and restaurants were decorated with Christmas lights and the streets were packed with residents celebrating the new peace. On the Vrbanja Bridge, one of the most dangerous spots in Sarajevo, where hundreds of civilians were shot by snipers, French soldiers from the Nato peace force held an evening mass in their bunker. Journalists walked across the bullet-ravaged bridge where no one once dared to go without an armoured vehicle. Only six months ago, two French peacekeepers were killed in a fight to recapture the bridge from Serb forces who, wearing stolen United Nations uniforms, had seized the position.

Bosnia's President Izetbegovic, a Muslim, in a Christmas message in Sarajevo's daily newspaper, *Oslobodjenje*, said: "I ask God to help all people of goodwill in fortifying the peace, so that our citizens can celebrate future holidays with more hope and joy."

Bethlehem baby symbolises birth of new hope for town's Muslims and Christians

FROM ROSS DUNN IN BETHLEHEM

KHOULA SHEHDAH was rejoicing with thousands of fellow Palestinians in Manger Square, Bethlehem, on Christmas Eve when she felt her baby stir within her and knew the time had come.

She went quickly back to her home before being taken to the city's Holy Family Hospital and at 3.40am yesterday produced a son. Mustafa, the first child to be born in Bethlehem

HOLY LAND

on Christmas Day 1995. Mustafa, weighing a little more than 6lb, came into a world quite different to his mother's. She was born 23 years ago in the same city under Israeli military rule, and lived through the tumultuous times of the intifada, the Palestinian uprising against the occupation. Her son is the first to be born in a Bethlehem free of Israeli soldiers after 28 years. The last troops pulled out of the city three days before Christmas Eve, paving the way for a visit by Yassir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman.

"It will stay as a memory for the child that he was born on this day," his mother said. "It was a big celebration. It was two feasts — Christmas and the freedom of the people."

Although Mustafa will be brought up to remember that he was born on a special day, it will not be as a Christian. He joins a growing population of Muslims who far outnumber the Christians in the biblical birthplace of Jesus. Despite their dwindling numbers, Christians such as Robert Tabash, the director of the Holy Family Hospital and a Bethlehemite, said there was great cause for people of both religions to celebrate Christmas this year. "I think this Christmas was a triple celebration: Christmas, liberation and Arafat's visit," he said, adding that 20,000 Palestinians and tourists who poured through Manger Square were generally well-behaved.

"In 28 years of occupation the Israelis were not able to control the crowd at Christmastime. This year, there were ten times as many people, and not one single incident. That's the pride, that's the future."

He said that the arrival of Palestinian police in the city had made a world of difference. "It was difficult when an occupier with a gun pushed you around," he said. "This time there were policemen saying politely, 'Please move aside'."

There were signs other than the arrival of the Palestinian police that Christmas in the birthplace of Jesus would be different. On Saturday, three military helicopters descended on the shepherds' fields outside Bethlehem, where almost 2,000 years ago the angel was said to have first told those tending their flocks of the coming of Christ.

The noise of their engines sent sheep and shepherds scurrying for cover and heralded the arrival not of a messiah, but of a new political master: Mr Arafat. No lone star guided pilgrims towards Bethlehem.

There were many stars as the skies over the city cascaded with fireworks throughout Christmas Eve and into the early hours of Christmas morning. Some tourists noted that it was difficult to tell where Christmas decorations ended and Palestinian flags began in Manger Square, near the Church of the Nativity, built over the spot where tradition says that Jesus was born.

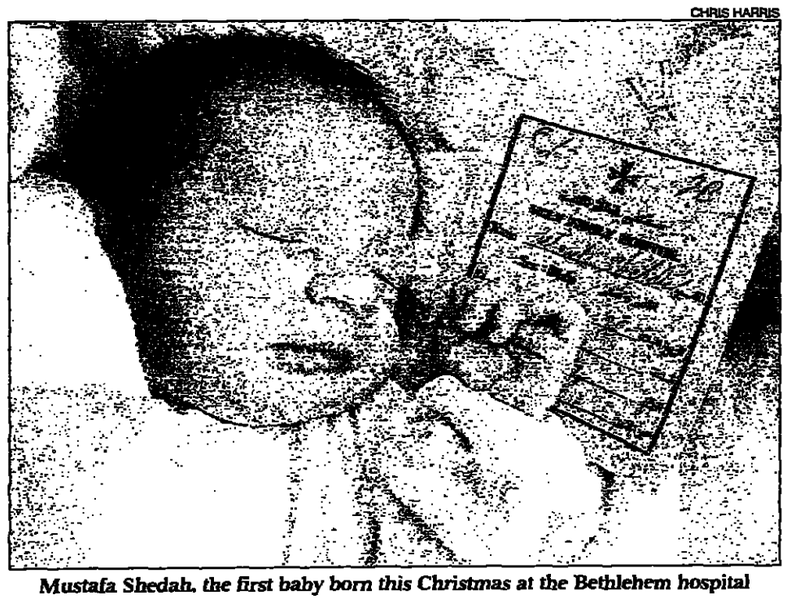
A giant poster of Mr Arafat dominated one of the buildings in the square, while another declared that Jesus was the first Palestinian revolutionary. Mr Arafat was the most talked-about guest at the traditional midnight Mass in the Church of the Nativity.

Michel Sabbah, the Latin patriarch of the Holy Land, emphasised in his sermon that all Palestinians — Christian or Muslim — should now look forward to peace with the Israelis. "The beginning of Palestinian freedom is also a beginning of reconciliation between the two peoples, Palestinian and Israeli," he said. "It's only together that they can reach a just and definitive peace which will also be the source of peace for the whole region."

There did not seem to be a Palestinian present who was troubled by political and religious messages being preached together during Christmas. Haeefam al-Hrub, 17, a student born of Palestinian parents and a Muslim, had travelled from Jordan to join in the celebrations. Asked what meaning there was in Christmas for a Muslim, he replied: "Jesus for us is a prophet of peace."

Widad Andonia, a Palestinian Christian, said: "It's a patriotic day. Last night I forgot Jesus. Arafat is in my heart." Rula Scweki, a student and a Muslim, said: "It's a Bethlehem festival. We are all friends here, Muslims and Christians."

CHRIS HARRIS



Mustafa Shedah, the first baby born this Christmas at the Bethlehem hospital

Mother of British rape victim sends gifts to rescuers

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

PEOPLE living in a remote South African village who helped two young Britons after they were attacked and raped have enjoyed a special Christmas, thanks to the mother of one of the women.

The residents sang praises and danced with joy when food and soft drinks were presented to them in their tiny impoverished kraal of Mtambalala, close to the scenic but desolate Wild Coast of the Eastern Cape province.

Two British and a New Zealand woman and a British male medical student were ambushed after losing their way while driving in the area after dark in September. They

SOUTH AFRICA

had been told before they setting out not to travel after nightfall in the region, a part of the former Transkei bantustan which remains almost as poverty-stricken and as lawless as it was during the apartheid era.

The two British women were raped repeatedly while the other two, who were forced to strip naked, watched helplessly. After their attackers left, the four huddled under bushes before venturing fearfully at daybreak into Mtambalala not knowing what to expect.

Villagers provided them with clothing and food before sending for help. Hugh Bland, a businessman in Durban who assisted in the rescue effort, said: "The mother of one of the girls said she was not a wealthy woman but wanted to do something for the villagers. She sent us £80 and my company added something."

Four men are in custody and are due to go on trial on February 17 on charges of rape, abduction, armed robbery and attempted murder. A fifth suspect escaped from prison a week after the attack and is still free.

In a Christmas message, President Mandela said that one of his Government's priorities next year would be the fight against crime. Already it has been announced that an extra £550 million is to be spent during the next three years on all aspects of crime prevention.

This represents something of a U-turn by the Government, which until the middle of this year continued to maintain that the country's horrendous crime rate was under control. According to the World Health Organisation, South Africa is the world's most murderous country with an average of 50 per 100,000 people dying each year, 800 per cent higher than the world average of 5.5 people per 100,000.

A 71-year-old woman was bantered to death in her home in Pretoria on Christmas Eve. Police allege that her domestic servant and an accomplice murdered her and ransacked the house because they wanted extra money for Christmas.

Pheasants bounty for peasants

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

VILLAGERS from a poor region in southwestern Romania were given a welcome present yesterday — hundreds of pheasants and other game birds falling, almost literally, into their pots without having to fire a shot.

The birds had escaped from a local farm when strong winds destroyed a wall. The farm was set up by the Romanian dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu, shot six years ago

ROMANIA

and mourned yesterday by diehard Communists who gathered at his grave.

The birds had been fitted with hoods that limited their vision to stop them pecking one another, and when freed they kept flying until they crashed — into houses and trees or one another. One villager said it had "rained pheasants all night long".



Ceausescu: mourned by party hardliners

TAKE IN RUSSIA ROMANIA AND TURKEY ALL IN A WEEK

FOOTBALL HOME

See the best that Europe has to offer. EURO 96 brings the biggest stars of continental football to your doorstep. Phone the EURO 96 Hotline now or get a ticket application form from any Midland Bank.

Under UEFA rules, residents of Scotland and The Republic of Ireland should apply for tickets through their respective national Football Associations. Tickets will be issued from May 1996. Web site http://www.euro96.org

Happy to be our tallest man, despite the jokes

What makes a person grow to an unusually great height — and is there anything that can be done to prevent it? **Dr Fiona Godlee** gets the exalted views of Britain's tallest man

In his last year at school, Chris Greener asked about joining the Royal Navy. His careers adviser looked him up and down, then said: "What d'you want to be, a mast?" He was 14 and 6ft 3in tall, towering over his contemporaries, who called him "Lamppost" or "Broom-handle".

Now 52, he stands 7ft 6¼in and is listed in *The Guinness Book of Records* as the tallest man in Britain, only an inch shorter than Haji Mohammad Alam Channa from Pakistan, the world's tallest man.

Most boys stop growing by the age of 16, and it is highly unusual for men to be taller than 6ft 8in. Chris grew a whole 10in between 16 and 23. In 1971, although his growth rate had slackened, he developed double vision. The optician found nothing wrong with his eyes, but a GP referred him to Professor Michael Besser at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, who specialises in growth abnormalities. He found that Mr Greener had a pituitary tumour in his brain pressing on his optic nerve.

The tumour, which is benign, produces abnormal amounts of growth hormone and its effect on the body depends on the person's age. At puberty, the bones fuse and growth stops. But if a pituitary tumour develops before puberty, as with Mr Greener, puberty is delayed and the individual keeps growing. There is proportional but excessive growth in the arms, legs and spine, leading to the condition called gigantism.

If the tumour develops after the person has stopped growing, the extra growth hormone leads to acromegaly, which is characterised by rugged facial features and large hands and feet. Acromegaly affects 40 people per million in Britain. Only about 1 per cent of these also develop gigantism.

Without treatment, patients are likely to suffer visual loss and early death from diabetes, strokes or heart attacks. Mr Greener received radiation treatment five days a week for six weeks, which finally, at the age of 28, stopped him growing. Today there are additional treatment options, including the drug Octreotide, given by injection, which suppresses production of the growth hormone, and surgery to the pituitary gland, approaching it via the nose so that the brain is not disturbed.

> 'What's the weather like up there?' has worn thin

Both gigantism and acromegaly are extremely rare. Most members of the Tall Persons' Club of Great Britain will not have an underlying medical condition. Their height is a result of the combined effects of genes and nutrition. Children of tall parents tend to be tall, too, though slightly less so. But this regression to the mean has been countered by improved nutrition in the womb and during the first year of life.

Dr Charles Brook, a children's growth specialist at the Middlesex Hospital in London, is the person many parents have turned to for advice and sometimes intervention. (Dr Brook also treats children who are growing too slowly, but he says that it is much more difficult to make someone grow than it is to stop them growing.)

Using the child's age, height and growth rate, and the parents' height, he and his colleagues can estimate a child's final height with reasonable accuracy. Children who are growing too fast or are already unusually tall for their age need investigating. If the child's hormonal balance is normal, treatment takes the form of very low doses of sex hormone. This brings on puberty, making the ends of the bones fuse and reducing the growth rate.

"Parents should come early," Dr Brook advises. "Once a child has entered puberty, there is little that can be done."

Family and social expectations are the keys to whether parents decide to proceed with treatment. Dr Brook finds that fathers who are more than 6ft 6in tall tend to want to save their sons from the social inconveniences they have suffered. When a daughter is affected, the main consideration is whether she has the looks and personality to carry off her extra height.

Mr Greener was never conscious that his parents were worried about his size. "Their main concern," he says, "was that I should be healthy." And though he is extraordinarily well adjusted, he does admit that for years he gave his height as 6ft 11in. Jokes of the "What's the weather like up there?" variety have worn pretty thin, and squeezing his 42in legs into the 34in legroom in planes and theatres and being hissed at to sit down by the person behind him is still tedious. Then there are the occasions when people walk out of shop doorways without looking and shriek with fright as they bump into his stomach. "I just laugh," he says. "What else can I do?"

But he finds it hard to imagine being different. Does he wish someone had done something earlier to stop him growing? "What matters is whether you're happy," he says. "You'll find people who are 5ft 6in and wish they were taller, and people of 6ft 4in who spend their lives saying they hate being that size."

Britons are getting taller by about an inch each generation. According to Phil Heinricy (6ft 8in), who founded the Tall Persons' Club, standard sizes in the design and manufacturing industry have not changed in the past 60 years or more, despite the fact that people today are two to three inches taller. The seating dimensions in coaches and buses have been with us since the 1930s, the standard 6ft 3in bed since 1860, and the 6ft 6in door since the 1880s.

Having to stoop and bend constantly may partly explain why tall people suffer more from back trouble. Mr Heinricy also estimates that because tall people cannot buy many stock items such as beds and clothes, and cannot travel comfortably in economy class, their cost of living is 20 per cent higher than for those of average height.

But, despite all the problems, would Mr Greener mind if someone overtook him? You get the feeling he might. "It's great being this size," he says. "It wouldn't be so great being the second tallest."

● *The author is assistant editor of the* British Medical Journal. *The Tall Persons' Club of Great Britain is at 29 Stanhope Street, Hereford HR4 0HA (01432 271818)*

GILL ALLEN



Chris Greener's extra growth — he is just over 7ft 6in — was caused by a benign pituitary tumour



SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE

LONDON
BAKER STREET 0171 486 4545
BECKTON
BROMLEY
CHINGFORD
CROYDON
FINCHLEY
HAMPTON
HAYES
KINGSTON
RICHMOND
SURBITON
SUTTON
TWICKENHAM
WALTHAMSTOW
WELLING
WOOD GREEN

SOUTH EAST
AYLESBURY
BANSTEAD
BASILDON
BEDFORD
CAMBERLEY
CANTERBURY
CRAWLEY
DORKING
EASTBOURNE
FARNHAM
GRAVESEND
GUILDFORD
HARLOW
HATFIELD
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD
HITCHIN
LUTON
MAIDSTONE
RAYLEIGH
READING
ROCHESTER
SOUTHEND
STAINES
STEVENAGE
TUNBRIDGE WELLS
WALTHAM ABBEY
WALTON-ON-THAMES
WATFORD

EAST ANGLIA
CAMBRIDGE
CHELMSFORD
COLCHESTER
IPSWICH
NORWICH
PETERBOROUGH

SOUTH
BASINGSTOKE
BOURNEMOUTH
BRIGHTON
CRAWLEY
FARNHAM
HOVE
POOLE
PORTSMOUTH
SOUTHAMPTON
SOUTHAMPTON
WINCHESTER
WORTHING

THE MIDLANDS
COVENTRY
DERBY
HEREFORD
LEAMINGTON SPA
LEICESTER
LEICESTER
LINCOLN
MILTON KEYNES
NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME
NORTHAMPTON
NOTTINGHAM
NOTTINGHAM Arnold
OLDBURY
OXFORD
SOLIHULL
SUTTON COLDFIELD
WARWICK
WHAMPTON
WORCESTER

WALES & THE WEST
BARNSTAPLE
BATH
BRISTOL
BRISTOL
CARDIFF
CARDIFF
CHELTENHAM
EXETER
GLOUCESTER
LLANELLI
LLANTRISANT
MERTHYR TYDFIL
NEWPORT
PLYMOUTH
SALTASH
SWANSEA
TAUNTON
WORLE

At least an EXTRA £150 OFF until New Year's Day

The Sharps January Sale is the Sale of the year with every bedroom now half price in over 175 showrooms nationwide. With reductions like these at Sharps you can save hundreds of pounds and still get the unrivalled craftsmanship, quality and service that have made us Britain's No.1 bedroom company. Plus if you order before New Year's Day there's an extra £150 off every bedroom.

Every Bedroom *Half Price**

VISIT A SHOWROOM OR PHONE FREE **0800 789 789**

SHOWROOM OPENING TIMES: BOXING DAY 10AM - 5 PM WED - SAT 9.30AM - 5.30PM

*Reductions from manufacturers' normal list prices. Minimum fra

Sleep apnoea is no laughing matter for sufferers

Who was snoring loudest last night?



DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Among the large family gatherings over the weekend for Christmas, it is a safe bet that insomnia has been just as great a problem as indigestion, if less publicised.

Well established sleep routines may have been upset, unaccustomed alcohol could have caused early-morning waking, and overcrowding would have increased nocturnal noises. By now everybody's snoring habits will be known to the whole house party.

Few insomniacs will go to the lengths adopted by David Ashby, MP, to preserve a regular sleep pattern. Mr Ashby told the libel court that he went to bed wearing a mask to help him to breathe properly at night.

Sleep apnoea affects up to 8 per cent of men and 4 per cent of women. The patient usually goes to sleep easily but is apt to snore loudly. The snoring has a distinctive pattern: it starts softly and reaches a climax of noise when, for a moment or two, the breathing stops entirely.

Once the brain reacts to the lack of oxygen the breathing restarts and soon the snoring cycle is repeated. Unfortunately, at each period of breathlessness the victim becomes restless and a sound sleep is interrupted. Nights are also disturbed by periods of wakefulness so that the next day, after a rough night, the person is apt to perform less well.

Sufferers may drive inattentively, and often have bad road accident records. People with sleep apnoea tend to doze off not only in front of the television set in the evenings, but also in public when they should be looking alert and interested.

Unfortunately, sleep apnoea is associated with an increased incidence of heart disease, strokes and unexplained sudden death. It is possible that sometimes the brain's failsafe mechanism does not restart the breathing after it has stopped during the apnoea phase.

In a review of sleep disorders in the *Journal of Psychiatry in Practice*, Dr Sally Thomas and Luke Rea advocate continuous positive airway pressure ventilation, and say that, occasionally, surgery may be necessary. This is usually designed to tighten the floppy folds of flesh which characterise the soft palate in older patients.

Other sufferers will improve with weight loss and a reduction in alcohol intake before bedtime. They should avoid sleeping pills, which make the situation worse. Surprisingly, tricyclic antidepressants can diminish sleep apnoea.

Sleeping pills are justified for short periods, such as when in hospital, when travelling, during emotional crisis or even at this time of year when a normally quiet household may be noisy.

Two comparatively new pills are becoming increasingly popular, Zimovane and Stilnoct, which, it is claimed, produce less sleepiness the next day. Seek your doctor's advice.

Breathe easy on fruit

An apple a day may keep lung diseases at bay

MOST people know about the link between healthy eating and a healthy heart. Many food products are marketed specifically for health, emphasising their low cholesterol or high fibre value. What is less well recognised by the public is the increasing evidence which links healthy diet to the maintenance of good lung function.

Evidence reviewed recently in the *British Medical Journal* by Dr Mongalam Sri Sridhar, of the Department of Human Nutrition and Respiratory Medicine at Glasgow University, suggests that there is a link between high intake of certain vitamins and protection from chronic lung diseases. As such diseases are relatively common, this link may be of practical importance for our everyday diet.

Research reported in the United States five years ago first suggested that a diet rich in vitamin C protected against the onset of respiratory symptoms. A year later, a large study of nearly 3,000 smokers and non-smokers found that an individual's consumption of fruit in winter was associated with better lung function. Shortly after this, research done in Nottingham showed that the protective effect of vitamin C continued into old age — the older people studied seemed to be more protected from lung diseases if they stayed on a high-fruit diet, giving them high serum levels of vitamin C.

What is the connection? How can eating a lot of fruit protect the lungs against chronic damage? The answer lies in oxidants, a highly reactive species of molecule, which can interact biochemically with other naturally occurring structures, altering their function. Their presence is thought to be connected with the inflammation seen in tissue samples taken from patients in the early stages of chronic lung diseases. Dr Sridhar reports that fresh fruit, with its high concentration of antioxidants which are anti-inflammatory, offers protection from this type of damage.

What about vitamin pills to supplement diet? Do they have the same protective effect? Nobody yet knows for sure, but Dr Sridhar argues that antioxidants which are not derived from natural sources may not have the same properties as naturally occurring ones.

"What patients must not think is that it is OK to smoke as long as you have a diet rich in fruit and vegetables," he says. "The advice remains the same — namely to stop smoking, as this is still the clearest identified cause of lung problems."

DR KIERAN SWEENEY


CRICKET 21
Angel bent on destruction of England


SALES 28,29
Where to find the bargains


ARTS 30,31
Remembering when Lionel Bart cooked up a turkey

19

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 34,35

THE TIMES

TUESDAY DECEMBER 26 1995

Racing waits to acclaim Desert Orchid's successor at Kempton Park

One hero wanted, One Man ready



One Man, ridden by Mark Dwyer, clears the second last in typically spectacular style on his way to victory at Haydock Park earlier this month. Photograph: Ed Byrne

Andrew Longmore on the fearless grey that can confirm his leap into the public's sporting affections during the King George VI Chase today

If the flying grey, One Man, romps home in the King George VI Tripleprint Chase at Kempton Park this afternoon, the echoes of his victory will reverberate far beyond the narrow confines of National Hunt racing. Since Desert Orchid retired after a crashing fall in the 1991 King George, racing has been searching for a horse whose appeal tugs the strings of the heart more than the purse, and though the comparison between Desert Orchid and One Man this morning extends no further than the accident of colouring and an outrageous flair for jumping fences, by nightfall, the next Dessie could be much more than a figment of the imagination.

To understand the emotional ties, one has to walk past the statue of Desert Orchid on the concourse at Kempton and reawaken memories of Boxing Days past. Kempton, an unpretentious park course, neat and quick but with hidden perils, was Dessie's spiritual home. He loved it there, not just because the course is right-handed, which suited him, but because it was the ideal stage for his extravagant ability. At the tight Kempton oval, he could run free, jump like a stag, show off, knowing that each ripple of his muscly frame, each twitch of his ears, would stay within the magnetic field of his adoring public. Unlike Cheltenham's forbidding acres, Kempton was cosy and intimate, and, like all great performers, Desert Orchid responded to an audience he could feel.

The relationship was born of time as well as place. When Dessie won the King George, which he did a record four times, his victories reflected the exuberance of Christmas, encouraged the belief that, as the new year approached, at least something was right with the world. People unable to tell Nijinsky from a shire horse turned on the television to watch *their* grey. For, by the time his career was ended after 71 races, 34 wins and £654,413 in prize-money, ownership had long since passed from the grasp of Richard Burridge, a scriptwriter, and his father, Jimmy, into public hands. Though he never ran in the National, Dessie was the nation's horse.

He will be there today, of course, a few days before his seventeenth birthday, leading the parade, behaving for all the world as if beating the bunch of plodders behind him would be quite beneath his dignity, still tetchy when the others gallop off without him. He will be back in the stables by the time the winner has passed the post; by the time, too, that John Hales, the owner of a toy company and One Man, has emerged from his hiding place to see the final few moments of the race.

Hales, like many owners before him, cannot bear to watch the horse which has already begun to change his life. "I can't enjoy it because I'm absolutely petrified he won't come back," he said. "So I'll be behind the gents toilet, probably, pacing up and down and listening to the commentary. In a sense, this has destroyed my love of racing. I'm not interested in any other races, I don't want to watch any of the other horses and I don't let anyone come near me during the race." Only when the field has cleared the last fence and One Man is safe will he breathe deeply again.

"There is not a minute of the day when I'm not thinking about One Man," Hales said. "I'm looking at his picture now on my office wall. Every time the phone goes, I jump a mile.

Big-race preview 24
Race cards 25

It's a huge responsibility, not because the public are looking for a new star, but because of the fear of losing him. He has already changed our lives."

At his stables in Appleby, near Melton Mowbray, where Jimmy Burridge can see Desert Orchid's box from his kitchen window, those words would strike a chord. Burridge's hangdog demeanour when walking from the paddock to watch Dessie was once described in the *Sporting Life* as "like a man going to the gallows". "I used to put up a great front," he said. "People would say: 'You must have had tremendous fun with Desert Orchid', but fun was not quite the right word. Watching the video after he had won was fun, watching his mother, Flower Child ... coming in fourth, that was fun. I used to get into an awful panic with Des."

It is easy to see why sane and intelligent men are driven to wear lucky overcoats, in the case of Richard Burridge, or walk only to the right when entering the parade ring, like John Hales. Anything not to offend fate. It is partly superstition, partly a fear of seeming presumptuous, that makes Hales and Gordon Richards, the bluff trainer of One Man, fend off inevitable comparison with Desert Orchid, though the recent success of his horse has done no harm to business at Golden Bear Products, his Telford-based company, whose colours One Man carries.

"I don't want the similarity to be there, but it is," Hales said. "He's a grey and he jumps in the same spring-heeled style. He's got a wonderful temperament. I can put my two-year-old grandson on him without fear. But you have to remember Dessie earned his fame. The little horse has still got to do it."

Other parallels, more circumstantial than conclusive, link the horses. Both defy unremarkable pedigrees, both suffered terrible falls at Kempton early in their careers and, just as Dessie only erased criticism of his jumping with his first victory in the King George nine years ago, so One Man has yet to convince some sceptics. His impressive victory at Haydock last time, which included a spectacular leap at the second last right out of Dessie's book, eased the doubts, but One Man's most marketable quality is still his colour.

"There are very few very good grey racehorses and the public latch on to them," Lisa Hales, John's daughter, said. "Few will be able to tell which one is Barton Bank or Algan out there, but they will all know One Man just as they all knew which one was Dessie."

Dessie was seven when he won his first King George, the same age as One Man, and One Man's position as favourite today owes something to the Dessie Factor and wishful thinking. Racing desperately wants him to live up to the reputation heaped on him. But even if he begins to do so today, it will be some time before One Man receives the sort of accolade accorded to Desert Orchid by Frankie Dettori after the pair had helped to open the turf track at Wolverhampton recently. Leaping off Desert Orchid, the champion announced ebulliently: "Now that is what I call a real horse."

☐ An inspection will be held at 6.30 this morning to determine whether racing can go ahead. In the event of a postponement, the card will be held over for 24 hours.



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Richard Dunwoody, who rides One Man this afternoon, parades on Desert Orchid before the 1991 King George VI Chase, a race he won four times. It was to be Desert Orchid's last race

Weather threat to holiday fixtures

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

WEATHER permitting — an essential proviso on England's rain-plagued tour — Paul Adams, 18, will today become the youngest man to play Test cricket for South Africa. A fisherman's son, he will also be the first Coloured to graduate from the country's development scheme.

Like Shane Warne, his wrist-spinning counterpart in Australia, though with greater speed and cultural significance, Adams has become a role model. Magazines are clamouring for different angles on his story and, during the past week at the news-stands, boys of all colour have been seen lingering over pictures of his action and copying it.

As a result of the attention directed towards Adams, England have been able to conduct their preparations in comparative calm. The speculation over their options ended yesterday with confirmation that they will almost certainly play four bowlers and install Jason Gallian in the problem position of No 3.

The weather at home threatens to disrupt the Boxing Day sports programme. Three Scottish football league games, including the premier division match between Falkirk and Aberdeen, were postponed yesterday because of snow and inspections are planned this morning by Heart of Midlotian and Raith Rovers. With snow affecting much of northern Britain, other fixtures are likely to be affected.

Two of the ten race meetings, at Ayr and Sedgefield, have been called off, and stewards will inspect at other courses today. Newton Abbot is the only meeting definitely on after passing an inspection yesterday.



THE AUSTIN REED SALE
FOR MEN AND WOMEN STARTS
TOMORROW.

AUSTIN REED

REGENT STREET, LONDON AND BRANCHES COUNTRYWIDE

Ferguson frets over ten-point deficit

Shrewd Keegan turns title tide toward Newcastle



Rob Hughes on a match that could confirm a shift in the balance of Premiership power

Never give a sucker an even break. Bookmakers, as disgruntled as footballers working at Christmas, have declared Newcastle United virtually uncatchable in the race for the FA Carling Premiership.

The marathon is at half-distance. Newcastle visit Old Trafford tomorrow, and Liverpool, for whom Robbie Fowler is in the form of his young life, play Aston Villa at Villa Park today. The ease with which Fowler finds the net is reminiscent of Jimmy Greaves. Fowler's brace of goals against Manchester United, followed by three against Arsenal on Saturday — right foot, left foot, head — might be the most festive gift to England. Yet the odds make Newcastle 4-1 *on* to win the championship for the first time in 69 years, with Manchester United and Liverpool at 9-2.

This ignores the nature of title races in England. Newcastle's lead is handsome, but as Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, warns, teams can suffer from spring nerves. The trap is laid for Newcastle in March. Even a ten-point lead could be vulnerable in a month that starts at home against Manchester United, then takes in trips to Nottingham Forest, Arsenal and Liverpool. Not even a man as positive as Kevin Keegan will presume the challenge won or lost before that run-in is over. Yet his nature is to go for it. His side is primed to attack Manchester United tomorrow, and should they win in style, the prize could be £20 million in European Cup Champions' League income next season.

Things could hardly have turned out better for Keegan. A year ago, the Newcastle manager was cornered by supporters, trying to explain that selling Andy Cole to Manchester United was not tantamount to abdication.

"I respect your right to have a go at me," Keegan said, "but I am manager here. I want to build Newcastle into the biggest club in the country — in the passage of time this will be seen as a significant move in that direction." He agreed that Cole's 68 goals in 84 games was the stuff of legend, yet Keegan sensed that the team needed a different approach, a broader-based dynamism.

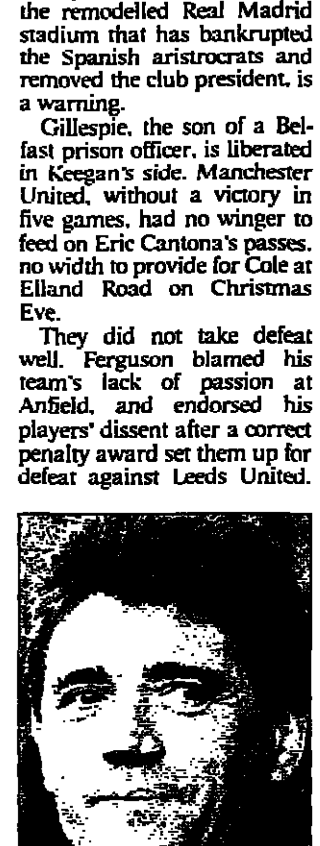
Almost a year on, Cole is not with the championship favourites. He has scored four times this season for Manchester United, while Les Ferdinand, his replacement, has scored 18 goals in 19 league games, served by David Ginola's hypnotic craft from the left and Keith Gillespie's pace and delivery from the right.

Gillespie was the £1 million makeweight in the £7 million Cole deal. Keegan's detractors had scoffed when he described Gillespie as the most exciting young player he had seen. Ferguson, obviously thinking that he had the better of the trade, admitted that Gillespie could come back to embarrass him.

That might happen tomorrow. Old Trafford's new £28 million North Stand is taking splendid shape, but perhaps the spectre of the Bernabeu, the remodelled Real Madrid stadium that has bankrupted the Spanish aristrocrats and removed the club president, is a warning.

Gillespie, the son of a Belfast prison officer, is liberated in Keegan's side. Manchester United, without a victory in five games, had no winger to feed on Eric Cantona's passes, no width to provide for Cole at Elland Road on Christmas Eve.

They did not take defeat well. Ferguson blamed his team's lack of passion at Anfield, and endorsed his players' dissent after a correct penalty award set them up for defeat against Leeds United.



Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how indiscipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European rules regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Embryonic talents like Butt, Paul Scholes, David Beckham and the Neville brothers have not let him down. They have taken the strain that might break seasoned professionals of lesser pedigree, but, as Ferguson has acknowledged, youngsters need sheltering, their bodies need time for growth, their minds can be harmed by prolonged exposure to championship tensions. However, one has never been quite sure that all the sales were Ferguson's idea, or convinced that the lack of replacements matched the buying philosophy at Newcastle or Liverpool.

When one examines the line-ups for the vital game between the Uniteds tomorrow, the changes to the equivalent encounter 14 months ago are disproportionate. Then, Manchester United ended Newcastle's proud league run, beating them 2-0. Four of that Manchester United team are gone. Five new Newcastle players — Shaka Hislop, Warren Barton, Ginola, Ferdinand and Gillespie — have arrived. And while Ferguson has been obliged to alternate David May and Paul Parker at centre back, Keegan last weekend experimented with three central defenders, principally because talents like Philippe Albert are desperate to get into the side.

Being Keegan, he relishes rather than fears the possibility that Cole might find his instinctive form against Newcastle. And, being Keegan, he will back his new forward, Ferdinand, to show the power, pace and appetite to at least strike goal for goal.

At this stage in the season, Keegan is a less lonely manager. His chairman, Sir John Hall, made it Newcastle's business to anticipate the legal outcome of the Jean-Marc Bosman case. "We might sign a new player," Keegan enthused on Saturday, "if that helps us chase the title. Especially now the foreigners rule has changed." While he acknowledges that Ferguson, the United manager for nine years, has set the standards, Keegan has the comfort of a ten-year contract that encourages long-term projects.

Newcastle's youth development is intended to stop the migration out of Co Durham of talents such as Bryan Robson, who gave his best decade to Manchester United. It is meant to be a school of sport beyond any in Great Britain. Anything? Yes, even Old Trafford's reputation for acquiring the best. Even that is on the turn. In the new year, Manchester United face charges laid by Oldham Athletic and Arsenal, that they "poached" two adolescents — David Brown, from Oldham, and Matthew Wicks, from Arsenal — by offering inducements.

Furthermore, clubs in the North West threaten to refuse to play United at youth level unless the Old Trafford club changes its "aggressive" methods of recruiting other clubs' youngsters.

Past, present and future, Manchester United are being put under pressure. As the club which, more than any other, turned sport into business, they are targets of envy as well as legitimate competition. The 90 minutes tomorrow are an indication of how fierce that competition is becoming.



Yeboah, of Leeds, powers through the United defence before chipping Schmeichel for the second goal. Photograph: Matthew Ashton

Leeds fire scorches United's hopes

Leeds United 3
Manchester United 1

By Peter Ball

EVEN before the shops had shut their doors on the last-minute shoppers on Sunday, Leeds supporters knew that they were in for a merry Christmas. Their team gave them their best possible present, ending their barren spell with a comprehensive victory over their greatest rivals in a splendid FA Carling Premiership game.

"We needed a result, and we needed a performance," Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, said, "and we got both." It left Manchester United lagging ten points behind Newcastle United, and without a win in five games. As at Anfield the previous week, they saw old foes raise themselves to new heights when confronted by a team wearing Manchester United shirts.

Leeds were outstanding, producing possibly their best performance of the season. Always a competitive, powerful team, on this occasion they played some delightful football, too. Many neutrals thought that Brolin was the man of the match, always available and linking beautifully. The two managers disagreed. "He's getting closer," Wilkinson said, "but he is not yet able to do what I want him to do."

Ferguson offered Roy Keane as his candidate, and might have submitted Andy Cole, who at last ended his miserable barren spell with United's goal to crown a fine display, but he was left in the shade by his opposite number. "Tony Yeboah was marvellous for them today," Ferguson said. "His pace and ability to get behind you was a bigger threat than Brolin."

The nomination of Yeboah was unlikely to find much favour with Wilkinson. Yeboah scored the key second goal in the Leeds victory, but a piece of self-indulgence in the dying minutes, a teasing dribble that beat three United men but got nowhere, had the home crowd in ecstasy. Wilkinson, however, was off the bench in a fury, and Yeboah was substituted.

Whatever happened to entertainment? Dour Yorkshire roundheads have no truck with such frippery. "The purpose of a game of football is to win," Wilkinson said. No wonder that he and Cantona did not hit it off.

United were on the wrong foot from the start as Dermot Gallagher gave a harsh penalty for an apparently accidental hand-ball by Butt. It escaped general notice. Leeds players asking what it was for as United protested bitterly. McAllister did not let his bafflement interfere with his execution.

For a team on a bad run, that was not the start that United wanted. For the next 25 minutes, Leeds were unrecognisable as Brolin, Speed and McAllister passed the ball at pace through United's shaky defence; but Deane hit the bar with one chip and put another straight into Schmeichel's arms, and United hung on. On the half-hour they did even better than that, Speed's mistake letting Butt cross for Cole to sweep the ball past Beeney.

With that goal, United began to get on top, but, as their pressure grew, they were caught by a sucker-punch. Brolin flicked on Kelly's clearance, Parker unaccountably missed it and Yeboah set off. Pursued by Parker and intercepted by Irwin, he was forced onto his right foot, but still clipped the ball with certainty over Schmeichel.

This time, try as they did, United could not come back and, if anything, Leeds had the better chances on the break even before the third goal ended United's hopes, after 72 minutes. Again, Gallagher played a part, a dubious free kick giving Leeds possession for a move that ended with Brolin's chip providing Deane with a point-blank header.

LEEDS UNITED (4-3-1-2): M Beeney — G Kelly, D Wetherall, R Jobson, A Dorigo — C Palmer, G McAllister, G Speed — T Brolin — B Deane, A Yeboah (sub: R Wallace, 86min).

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, P Parker (sub: D May, 74), S Bruce (sub: P Neville, 79), D Irwin — N Butt, R Keane, B McClair, D Beckham — E Cantona, A Cole.

Referee: D Gallagher

Smith steps down after order to foot boot bill

ROWS over Christmas presents can take many different forms, but at Swansea City it all got a bit out of hand this year (Oliver Holt writes). Bobby Smith, the club's manager of only three months, got his 12 days of Christmas a bit mixed up and went for the necessity of 12 pairs of rubber-soled Mitre astro-boots for his players rather than the more traditional extravagance of 12 lords-a-leaping. It led to his resignation.

His rather modest act of largesse was received rather unseasonally by his employer. Doug Sharpe, the chairman of the Endsleigh Insurance League second division club, who has garnered £865,000 from the sale of players in the past six months, refused to pay the £250 bill for the boots and said that Smith would have to find the money himself.

Smith was also told that his £500 testimonial cheque had been cancelled. Smith, who took over from Frank Burrows, walked out and may be about to pursue a case for constructive dismissal.

"I'm responsible for the players being kitted out in a proper way," Smith said. "If the pitch is bone-hard at Bristol City on Boxing Day, what do the players wear?"

Swansea may need more than good wishes to survive at Ashton Gate, though. If the frost covering the ground in Swansea yesterday morning is anything to go by, the pitch will indeed be bone-hard.

County set in anticipation

Non-League Football by Walter Gammie

NO MATCHES in the Vauxhall Conference stir supporters to a greater pitch of excitement than the meetings between Bromsgrove Rovers and Kidderminster Harriers. The match between the Worcestershire rivals at the Victoria Ground today promises to be no exception.

"It produces the highest attendances for any match in the league — there were 4,300 at Kidderminster last year," Brian Kenning, the Bromsgrove manager, said.

"I spent $3\frac{1}{2}$ years at Kidderminster as first-team coach and know Graham Allner [the manager there] as well as anybody, but as managers, when it comes down to it, it's just another league game with three points to be won. For the fans, it's a different story. They work together and there's no way they treat it as just another match."

Kenning's spell at Aggborough ended in 1988. "I thought everything had gone smoothly until Graham sacked me," he said. "He said he wanted a change. There was no point in arguing about it. That was his decision and he made it. He's the first person I'll have a drink with after the match."

For Kenning, that drink will, nonetheless, taste all the sweeter if Bromsgrove maintain their recent record against Kidderminster. "People talk about an Indian sign — we haven't been beaten by them in our past six games," he said.

Woking will go into their match against Dagenham and Redbridge with mild trepidation. They have not lost at Kingfield since Boxing Day last year — when their opponents were Dagenham and Redbridge, who beat them 5-3. They have gone 21 home matches without defeat since. Geoff Chapple, the manager, hopes to have Clive Walker and John Crumplin, hamstring victims, fit to return.

Boxing Day also sounds an echo for Farnborough Town. A year ago, against Yeovil Town, they unveiled David Harlow, their £10,000 signing from Kingstonian. Today, at Bath City, they will field for the first time another recruit from the Icis League club, Phil Wingfield, who cost £7,500.

SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS

FA Carling Premiership

COVENTRY (0) 2 EVERTON (0) 1
Busst 48, Whelan 84; Rideout 67; 16,639

LIVERPOOL (1) 3 ARSENAL (1) 1
Fowler 40, 59, 78; Wright 7 (pen)

MAN CITY (0) 0 CHELSEA (0) 1
28,668; Peacock 76

MIDDLSBORO (3) 4 WEST HAM (0) 2
Fjortoft 22, Cox 23, Morris 29, Hendrie 85; Cottee 81, Dicks 89; 28,640

NEWCASTLE (2) 3 NOTTM F (1) 1
Lee 11, 74, Ginola 26; Woan 14; 36,531

QPR (0) 1 A VILLA (0) 0
Gallen 54; 14,778
Sent off: L Hendrie (A Villa) 90

SHEFF WED (1) 2 SOUTHAMPTON (1) 2
Hirst 14 (pen), 50 (pen); 25,115; Heaney 7, Magilton 80 (pen)

TOTTENHAM (0) 2 BOLTON (0) 2
Sheringham 54, Armstrong 71; 30,702; Green 76, Bergsson 79

WIMBLEDON (0) 1 BLACKBURN (1) 1
Earle 83; 7,105; Kimble 27 (og)

Sunday
LEEDS UTD (2) 3 MAN UTD (1) 1
McAllister 6 (pen), Yeboah 38, Deane 73; Cole 30; 39,801

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	19	14	3	2	40	16	45
Man Utd	19	10	5	4	36	22	35
Liverpool	19	10	4	5	34	16	34
Tottenham	19	9	7	3	26	19	34
Middlsboro	19	9	6	4	23	14	33
A Villa	19	9	5	5	25	15	32
Arsenal	19	8	7	4	24	15	31
Nottm F	18	6	10	2	28	27	28
Leeds	18	8	4	6	26	25	28
Chelsea	19	7	7	5	18	19	28
Blackburn	19	7	4	8	29	25	25
Everton	19	6	5	8	23	22	23
West Ham	19	6	5	8	21	28	23
Sheff Wed	19	5	7	7	28	29	22
Southampton	19	4	6	9	19	30	18
QPR	19	5	3	11	15	26	18
Man City	19	4	4	11	10	38	16
Wimbledon	19	3	6	10	24	39	15
Coventry	19	3	6	10	25	41	15
Bolton	19	2	4	13	18	36	10

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Fairford 0 Kintbury 1, Lambourn Sports 4 Carterton 1. Postponed: Abingdon United v Endsleigh; Brackley v Burnham; Cirencester v Tuffley; Didcot v Bicester; Highworth v Almondsbury; North Leigh v Banbury; Shortwood v Swindon Supermarine

Endsleigh Insurance League

First division

BIRMINGHAM (0) 1 TRANMERE (0) 0
Hunt 75; 18,439

DERBY (1) 3 SUNDRLAND (1) 1
Gabbiadini 36, Willems 65 (pen), Sturridge 84; Gray 35; 16,882

GRIMSBY (1) 2 LEICESTER (0) 2
Walsh 4 (og), Dobbin 67; 7,713; Roberts 73, Walsh 90

LUTON (1) 2 HUDDERSFIELD (0) 2
Marshall 36, Oldfield 79; 7,076; Booth 56, Makel 64
Sent off: S Davis (Luton) 49

OLDHAM (0) 0 WATFORD (0) 0
5,878

PORTSMITH (0) 1 NORWICH (0) 0
Durnin 56; 9,960

STOKE (1) 2 SHEFF UTD (1) 2
Gleghorn 28, Sheron 47; 12,265; Patterson 8, White 74
Sent off: I Cranson (Stoke) 77

WEST BROM (0) 2 C PALACE (3) 3
Hunt 62, Darby 85; 13,183; Gordon 15 (pen), 36 (pen), 40

Postponed: Reading v Wolverhampton

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derby	23	11	7	5	38	28	40
Sunderland	22	10	8	4	30	19	38
Leicester	23	10	7	6	39	34	37
Birmingham	23	10	7	6	33	29	37
Huddersfld	23	10	6	7	34	29	36
Charlton	23	9	9	5	29	23	36
Grimsby	23	9	9	5	29	26	36
Stoke	23	9	8	6	34	28	35
Norwich	23	9	7	7	34	27	34
Southend	23	9	7	7	27	28	34
Millwall	23	9	7	7	24	28	34
Oldham	23	7	10	6	34	26	31
Ipswich	23	7	9	7	39	35	30
Tranmere	21	8	6	7	32	25	30
Barnsley	23	7	8	8	30	40	29
C Palace	22	7	8	7	27	29	29
Portsmth	23	7	7	9	35	36	28
Reading	22	5	9	8	27	30	24
Watford	23	5	9	9	27	30	24
West Brom	23	7	3	13	27	38	24
Port Vale	23	5	8	10	26	32	23
Wolvrhmptn	22	5	7	10	27	33	22
Sheff Utd	23	5	5	13	30	42	20
Luton	23	4	7	12	19	36	19

LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City 3 Rhyl 1, Briton Ferry 1 Barry 6, Flint Town 4 Aberystwyth 0, Inter Cardiff 2 Conwy 1, Porthmadog 4 Llanelli 1. Postponed: Caersws v Ton Pentre; Connah's Quay v Alan Lido; Llansantffraid v Holywell

Second division

BOURNEMTH (1) 2 HULL (0) 0
Jones 22, Holland 75

BRADFORD (1) 1 OXFORD UTD (0) 0
Mohan 1; 4,637

BRISTOL R (0) 1 CREWE (0) 2
Browning 90; 4,519; Murphy 68, Rivers 72

BURNLEY (0) 0 BRISTOL CITY (0) 0
9,327

NOTTS CO (0) 1 BLACKPOOL (0) 1
Arkins 48; 5,522; Arkins 67 (og)

WALSALL (0) 0 SWINDON (0) 0
5,624

WYCOMBE (1) 2 SHRWSBURY (0) 0
Bissett 3, Howard 81; 4,131

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crewe	21	13	4	4	42	23	43
Swindon	21	12	7	2	36	15	43
Notts Co.	21	11	6	4	33	18	39
Blackpool	21	10	6	5	32	22	36
Burnley	22	9	8	5	35	27	35
Chestrfld.	21	10	5	6	33	23	35
Wrexham	21	8	9	4	34	25	33
Wycombe	21	8	9	4	30	22	33
Shrwsbury	21	10	2	9	30	28	32
Bradford	21	9	4	8	29	33	31
Bournemth	21	9	4	8	24	26	31
Stockport	21	7	8	6	25	21	29
Oxford Utd	21	7	7	7	27	23	28
Walsall	21	6	8	7	23	18	26
Bristol R	21	7	5	9	22	31	26
Peterboro	21	6	7	8	27	31	25
Bristol City	21	5	8	8	20	29	23
Carlisle	21	5	7	9	27	33	22
York	20	6	3	11	23	32	21
Rotherham	21	5	6	10	23	35	21
Brentford	21	5	6	10	18	28	21
Swansea	21	4	8	9	22	35	20
Brighton	21	4	3	14	17	36	15
Hull	21	2	8	11	18	34	14

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Whitley Bay v Lincoln United

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Burnham Ramblers 4 Stansted 0, East Ham 0 Bowers 3; Ford United 0 Sawbridgeworth 4, Hullbridge Sports 1 Romford 6, Southend Manor 4 Eton Manor 1. Postponed: Basildon v Maldon; Concord v Great Wakering

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Croydon Athletic 3 Harwell Town 3. Postponed: Beaconsfield SYCOB v Corinthian Casuals, Woolwich Town v St Margaretsbury

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford 4 Backwell 1, Mangotsfield 2 Chippenham 2. Postponed: Calne v Bristol Manor Farm; Frome v Elmore; Tiverton v Crediton; Torrington v Taunton

Third division

BURY (0) 0 COLCHESTER (0) 0
3,559

CHESTER (0) 0 BARNET (1) 2
3,081; Hodges 31, Devine 62

MANSFIELD (0) 0 HARTLPOOL (1) 3
1,982; Houchen 26, 79, Halliday 81

PLYMOUTH (0) 1 CAMBRIDGE U (0) 0
Mauge 75; 7,135

PRESTON (0) 0 GILLINGHAM (0) 0
10,669

SCARBORO (0) 2 NORTHMPTN (0) 1
Trebble 50, Ritchie 64; White 51; 1,404

TORQUAY (0) 0 DARLINGTON (1) 1
2,045; Bannister 5

WIGAN (0) 1 LINCOLN (0) 1
Martinez 52; 2,334; Brown 71

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Preston	21	9	11	1	43	20	38
Chester	20	11	5	4	38	23	38
Gillingham	20	10	7	3	25	7	37
Plymouth	21	10	6	5	35	22	36
Darlington	21	8	9	4	23	19	33
Rochdale	21	9	5	7	33	24	32
Colchester	21	8	8	5	31	25	32
Doncaster	21	9	5	7	25	27	32
Bury	21	8	8	5	24	25	32
Cambs Utd	21	8	5	8	33	34	29
Wigan	21	7	8	6	27	26	29
Exeter	21	6	9	6	23	25	27
L Orient	21	7	5	9	24	32	26
Barnet	21	5	10	6	22	25	25
Hereford	21	5	9	7	26	26	24
Northmptn	21	6	6	9	23	23	24
Cardiff	21	6	6	9	23	24	24
Fulham	21	4	11	6	28	28	23
Scunthrpe	21	6	8	8	28	28	23
Scarboro	21	5	8	8	24	31	23
Mansfield	21	4	10	7	30	41	22
Hartlpool	21	5	7	9	20	32	22
Lincoln	21	4	7	10	19	36	19
Torquay	21	2	7	12	18	42	13

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE. Premier division: Ashford 1 Godalming and Guildford 0; Feltham 4 Cobham 1, Raynes Park Vale 1 Chipstead 5, Reading 3 Eton Wick 1; Walton Casuals 1 Ash 1, Westfield 4 Horley 1. Postponed: DCA Basingstoke v Peppard; Farnham v Viking Sports; Hartley Wintney v Cranleigh; Merstham v Bedfont; Sandhurst v Netherne

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Toddington 4 Milton Keynes 0, Biggleswade 1 Buckingham Athletic 3, Arlesey 4 Potters Bar 2. Postponed: Langford v Hatfield; Shillington v Brache Sparta; Welwyn Garden v Letchworth; Harpenden v London Colney

Bell's Scottish League

First division

Postponed: Clydebank v Airdrie

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dunfrmline	18	12	1	5	36	16	37
Dundee Utd	18	10	4	4	33	19	34
G Morton	18	10	3	5	33	18	33
Dundee	18	8	7	3	32	23	31
St Johnstn	18	7	5	6	20	19	26
Airdrie	17	6	5	6	21	22	23
Clydebank	17	6	5	6	20	24	23
St Mirren	18	4	7	7	19	26	19
Dumbarton	18	3	2	13	15	45	11
Hamilton	18	2	3	13	15	32	9

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Burton 1 Chelmsford 1, Gloucester 1 Atherstone 2; Gravesend and Northfleet A Newport AFC AAbandoned, (0-0). Hastings 4 Cheltenham 1; Merthyr 0 Halesowen 2; Rushden and Diamonds 3 Ilkeston 0, Salisbury 1 Baldock 2. Postponed: Cambridge City v Gresley; Stafford v Sudbury; VS Rugby v Crawley; Worcester v Dorchester. Midland division: Bilston 0 Moor Green 4, Bridgnorth 2 Hinckley Town 5, Dudley Town 3 RC Warwick 3, Grantham 1 Evesham 0; Kings Lynn 2 Pagot 0; Leicester United 1 Tamworth 0, Nuneaton 1 Stourbridge 0; Sutton Coldfield 2 Rothwell 2. Postponed: Buckingham Town v Bedworth; Redditch v Corby; Solihull v Bury Town. Southern division: Bashley 3 Margate 0; Forest Green 4 Fleet 0, Sittingbourne 1 Newport IoW 2, Trowbridge 0 Havant 0; Waterlooville 3 Cinderford 0, Weymouth 2 Weston-super-Mare 2. Postponed: Clevedon v Ashford; Erith and Belvedere v Yate; Fareham v Fisher 93; Tonbridge Angels v Poole; Witney v Braintree.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cornard 2 Harwich and Parkeston 5, Fakenham 2 March 1, Great Yarmouth 2 Wisbech 1; Lowestoft 2 Woodbridge 1, Soham 2 Sudbury 2; Stowmarket 1 Halstead 2. Postponed. Sudbury v Clacton; Tiptree v Newmarket

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Totton 0 Cowes Sports 3, Andover 3 Eastleigh 7; Downton 2 Petersfield 0; Gosport 2 Bemerton Heath Hart 0; Thatcham 0 B A T 0, Wimborne 1 Portsmouth R N 2. Postponed: Aerostructures v Bournemouth; Brockenhurst v East Cowes; Swanage and Herston v Christchurch

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE. First division: Mile Oak 0 Wick 1, Pagham 0 Shoreham 3, Peacehaven and Telscombe 5 Langney Sports 0, Southwick 2 Burgess Hill 2, Whitehawk 2 Crowborough 1. Postponed: Arundel v Portfield, Eastbourne Town v Stamco, Hassocks v Three Bridges; Oakwood v Horsham Y M C A; Ringmer v Hailsham

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Cray 0 Faversham 1, Deal 0 Greenwich 1, Furness 2 Folkestone Invicta 2, Herne Bay 3 Thamesmead 0, Slade Green 2 Whitstable 1. Postponed: Sheppey v Corinthian

Second division

STIRLING (0) 2 MONTROSE (0) 0
McCormick 58, 90; 1,056

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
East Fife	17	12	3	2	23	10	39
Stirling	18	10	6	2	36	17	36
Berwick	17	8	4	5	30	17	28
Stenhsmuir	17	8	3	6	28	19	27
Stranraer	17	5	10	2	19	15	25
Forfar	17	6	5	6	16	25	23
Clyde	17	4	7	6	16	13	19
Ayr	17	4	4	9	14	22	16
Queen Of S	17	2	6	9	18	33	12
Montrose	18	1	4	13	13	42	7

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Boreham Wood 2 Purfleet 1; Bromley 0 Bishop's Stortford 2, Carshalton 5 Walton and Hersham 2; Grays 6 Worthing 0, Harrow 3 Enfield 1, Molesey 0 Hayes 2, Yeading 2 St Albans 1, Yeovil 1 Chertsey 0. Postponed: Aylesbury v Dulwich. First division: Basingstoke 3 Thame 3, Berkhamsted 2 Billericay 0; Marlow 2 Abingdon Town 1; Oxford City 1 Chesham 0; Tooting and Mitcham 2 Leyton Pennant 3, Uxbridge 3 Barton 2. Postponed: Barking v Staines; Heybridge Swifts v Aldershot Town, Maidenhead United v Bognor Regis; Wembley v Whyteleafe, Wokingham v Ruislip Manor. Second division: Bedford Town 1 Canvey Island 7, Chalfont St Peter 1 Metropolitan Police 2, Cheshunt 1 Banstead 2: Collier Row 1 Edgware 0 Croydon 2 Tilbury 1, Dorking 0 Ware 1, Hampton 2 Witham 1, Saffron Walden 2 Hungerford 3, Wivenhoe 3 Leatherhead 0. Postponed: Bracknell v Hemel Hempstead. Third division: Aveley 3 Clapton 0, Flackwell Heath 1 Camberley 4, Hertford 0 Kingsbury 4: Wingate and Finchley 1 Hornchurch 0. Postponed: Cove v Windsor and Eton, East Thurrock v Lewes; Epsom and Ewell v Southall, Harefield v Leighton; Horsham v Northwood, Tring v Harlow

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston 5 Newport Pagnell 0; Bourne 4 S and L Corby 2, Long Buckby 2 Cogenhoe 2. Postponed: Desborough v Holbeach; Mirrlees Blackstone v Eynesbury, Northampton Spencer v Raunds, Potton v Stamford, St Neots v Kempston, Wellingborough v Stotfold; Wootton v Spalding

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Halesowen Harriers 1 Pershore 3, Shifnal 3 Shepshed Dynamo 5; Stapenhill 1 Boldmere 2. Postponed: Hinckley Athletic v Sandwell, Kynpersley v Chasetown, Oldbury v Boldmere St Michaels, Rushall Olympic v Bolehall Swifts, Willenhall v Barwell

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Cholmsley 1 Alvechurch Villa 1, Coventry Sphinx 4 Handrahan Timbers 2, Studley B.K.L. 3 Northfield 2, Wellesbourne 2 Coleshill 1, West Midland Fire Service 1 Ansells 1. Postponed: Bloxwich v Upton, Highgate v Knowle, Kings Heath v Massey Ferguson; Meir KA v Olton Royale; Shirley v Southam

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: First division: Brentwoods 4 Wellingburians 2

Third division

Postponed: Albion v Caley Thsl

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Livingston	17	10	4	3	22	9	34
Brechin	18	9	5	4	23	12	32
Ross Co	17	7	7	3	29	20	28
Caley Ths	17	7	6	4	37	19	27
Cowdnbth	17	7	3	7	26	25	24
Arbroath	17	6	6	5	22	25	24
Queen's Pk	17	5	3	9	17	24	18
Alloa	17	4	6	7	16	27	18
East Stirling	18	4	5	9	27	35	17
Albion	17	4	1	12	23	46	13

BANK'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Stourport 1 Stafford 1; Wednesfield F C 2 Pelsall Villa 2. Postponed: Cradley v Bloxwich, Ettingshall Ht v Lichfield; Ludlow v Darlaston F C; Lye v Westfields F C, Malvern v Gornal; Tividale F C v Brierley Hill, Walsall Wood F C v Wolverhampton Casuals

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare 5 Maltby M.W 1, Ashfield 4 Denaby 2, Belper Town 3 Ossett Town 1, Brigg 1 Thackley 1; Ossett Albion 1 North Ferriby 3; Pickering 5 Hatfield Main 1, Stocksbridge P.S. 3 Liversedge 0. Postponed: Arnold v Sheffield, Goole v Glasshoughton Welfare; Hallam v Hucknall

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE. First division: Burscough 3 Bootle 1, Chadderton 1 Maine Road 1; Clitheroe 3 Prescot 2, Darwen 3 Skelmersdale 2, Flixton 2 Blackpool Rovers 0; Glossop North End 0 Trafford 1, Holker Old Boys 3 Mossley 0, Kidsgrove 1 Newcastle Town 0, Penrith 0 St Helens 1; Rossendale 1 Salford 0

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington 9 Seaham Red Star 2; Chester-le-Street 1 Peterlee 0, Guisborough 7 Eppleton C W 0; Shildon 1 Whickham 2; Stockton 2 Murton 2. Postponed: Consett v Billingham Synthonia; Crook v Durham. Dunston Federation v Tow Law, Ferryhill v R T M Newcastle

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Buckie Thistle 0 Deveronvale 1; Cove 3 Huntly 1, Peterhead 1 Fraserburgh 1, Wick Academy 0 Brora 2. Postponed: Clachnacuddin v Fort William, Elgin v Lossiemouth; Nairn County v Forres Mechanics, Rothes v Keith.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: O Hamptonians 1 Glyn 0; O Ignatians 2 Latymer 2; O Isleworthians 3 Clapham 1; O Meadonians 0 O Aloysians 1 O Tenisonians 3 Cardinal Manning 1. Senior first division: O Vaughanians 2 O Suttonians 2, Phoenix 2 O Salvatorians 5; Shene 5 O Manorians 7

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Carshalton 2 West Wickham 0; Winchmore Hill 0 Crouch End Vampires 3. Second division: Barclays Bank 1 O Latymerians 1, Midland Bank 1 Lloyds Bank 2, O Lyonian 3 Lensbury 4, O Parkonians 0 Alexandra Park 0. Third division: Brentham 0 Bank of England 2; O Salesians 7 O Westminster Citizens 2

Softly-spoken angel bent upon destruction of England



As he awaits eagerly the Test match debut of Paul Adams, **John Woodcock** reflects on prodigious spinning legends of the past

In the hope that the South Africa selectors really are committed to including Paul Adams in their side for the fourth Test match, which starts here in Port Elizabeth today, this will concern the vicissitudes of bowling, as Adams does, out of the back of the hand.

In a sense, it is to his advantage that he is only 18. With fingers so supple and nerve still intact, he hardly yet knows how harrowing a method of bowling it can be. It depends, more than any other, on confidence, and confidence and innocence are strung together.

The fact that Adams is Coloured adds dramatically, of course, to his selection. He will light candles that no white man can reach; and it is a happy coincidence that the legendary bowlers, who first put South African cricket on the map in the early years of this century, were themselves wrist spinners. Even the greatest English batsmen of those days reckoned that Schwarz, Vogler, Faulkner and White, bowling leg breaks and googlies on matting pitches in South Africa provided the severest test that they had ever faced.

The left-arm wrist spinners, such as Adams, are scarcer, more exotic, more erratic members of the same tribe, bowling not the leg break and the googly but the chinaman and the googly. Numbered among them have been some of the most prodigious spinners of the ball, as capable of reducing batsmen to helplessness as of bowling a profusion of long hops and full tosses.

The story of the Australian, L. O'B. Fleetwood-Smith, of this ilk, is a part of cricket lore. When the MCC side of 1932-33 were playing their opening matches in Australia, he was causing such confusion among Australian batsmen, unable to tell the googly from the chinaman, that the whole country was quite agog. It was with some anxiety, therefore, that MCC first encountered him, playing for Victoria at Melbourne, three weeks before the first Test match.

Walter Hammond went in intent upon putting him to flight, and with an innings of 203, brilliant even by his standards, he duly did so. Six weeks ago, in not dissimilar circumstances, it was Adams, the Fleetwood-Smith of South Africa, who prevailed, his nine wickets for a South African XI at Kimberley leading to England's only defeat of the present tour. Would that Atherton had a Hammond in his side.

When cricket was played less attritionally than it is now, there used to be more of a place for these purveyors of chinamen and googlies. Two of them — George Tribe and Jack Walsh, both expatriate Australians — were among the foremost characters of the county championship after the Second World War. They both spun the ball like a top. So, for that matter, did Denis Compton when he felt like switching from orthodox left-arm spin to chinamen and googlies. So, in time, did the ever-resourceful Garry Sobers.

In South Africa in 1956-57, Johnny Wardle, a left-armer of wonderful versatility, won the Cape Town Test match for England, bowling out of the back of the hand, a method that he was seldom allowed to use for Yorkshire because it smacked too much of bartering for wickets. When the Australian, David Sincock, seen fleetingly as a latter-day Fleetwood-Smith, was picked to bamboozle England at Sydney in 1966, he could hardly pitch the ball for worrying and was never heard of again. Johnny Martin and Lindsay Kline were others who appeared for Australia at around that time as eager, occasionally successful left-arm illusionists.

Now comes Adams, an angel bent upon destruction. For the past week, he has been featured on South African television, wide-eyed and softly-spoken, talking about the part that providence has accorded him.

Word has it that he bowls almost exclusively googlies (the left-armer's leg break to the right-handed batsman), and if this is so, it is likely, in the long run, to restrict his effectiveness. For the moment, though, he holds all the cards. All too fresh in the minds of England's batsmen will be the embarrassments that they have suffered in trying to master Shane Warne.

On the eve of the Barbados Test match in 1968, Fred Titmus had four toes sliced off in a boating accident off Sandy Lane. That night, his understudy, a young Pat Pocock, came to my room in search of a *Wisden* to take to bed with him. He had just been told that he would win his first England cap next day and, with a proper sense of the romantic, he wanted to know what goals to set himself as a Test off spinner.

At the top of the English list he found Jim Laker with 193 wickets at an average of 21. Pocock was to finish his Test career, 18 years later, with 67 wickets at 44 apiece, a record that did him little justice. Being more of an oddity, Adams can break new ground. Nobody has taken even 50 Test wickets bowling the stuff he does, unless, in his more adventurous moments, Wardle did.

Adams could be the best thing to have happened to South African cricket ... or a shooting star. Which it is to be will depend, to start with, on having selectors and a captain who believe in him, and a captain with vision. The coming days will comprise a challenge for Cronje as well as for Adams.



Laker took 193 wickets for England at 21 runs apiece

South Africa may bank on Adams to turn series

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN PORT ELIZABETH

ENGLAND has a cricket team of rare extremes. Their recent habit has been to lose overseas Test series almost before they have acclimatised but, this winter, they have been in South Africa for ten weeks and still, it seems, their tour has not properly begun. The Test series, scoreless after three games, must now find a shape and a resolution within the next 12 days, and the spark to ignite it may well be the compellingly curious spin bowling of Paul Adams.

Weather permitting — an essential caveat on this rain-plagued tour — Adams will today become the youngest man to play Test cricket for South Africa. He will also be the first Coloured to graduate from the development scheme pioneered by Ali Bacher and, almost certainly, the first man to bowl at this level while balanced like a stork with his head pointing at the ground behind him.

His action has been likened to a frog and an octopus, and he goes by the nickname of "Gogga", a particularly irritating insect. He is 18, unworldly and inarticulate, and it is this endearing innocence, this bewilderment at the company that he is suddenly being asked to keep, that makes this fisherman's son from the unglamorous end of Cape Town the most intriguing story of a tour that badly needs a new hero.

For once, England have been able to conduct their preparations in comparative calm. The speculation over their options for a game that begins this morning on South Africa's original Test-match ground, ended yesterday with confirmation that they will almost certainly play only four bowlers and install Jason Gallian on the tightrope at No 3, has been utterly upstaged by the attention being lavished upon Adams.

Like Shane Warne, his wrist-spinning counterpart in Australia, though with still more dramatic speed and greater cultural significance, Adams has become a role model. Magazines are suddenly clamouring for different angles on his story and, this past week at the news-stands, it has been possible to see boys of all colour lingering over pictures of his action and unself-consciously copying it.

The best indicator of his phenomenal rise is that he still habitually plays street cricket with his pals back home in Grassy Park. Life, for Adams, has altered, however. His family has had to change its telephone number and his elder brother, Gary, had to take time off from his television repair business to drive Paul to interviews and meetings. He is coping, but the way in which he twiddles his thumbs, fiddles with his shirt and blinks silently at questions he has no wish to answer, confirm that, unlike Warne, he is no natural personality.

His bowling is natural enough, if bizarrely nonconformist, and, having taken nine wickets against England for South Africa A last month, he does not lack confidence. "I have bowled them out once, so I can do it again," he said. Then, when asked if he ever swore at batsmen, he disarmingly replied: "No, I just laugh at them."

There has not been a great deal of laughing in and around the England camp this week. While the ever-swelling band of supporters counts the cost of the dire weather, there are those in the playing party, such as Devon Malcolm, Angus Fraser, John Crawley and Mark Ramprakash, having to accept that their tours are effectively over.

This may not be the case for Mike Watkinson. His impact thus far has been negligible, but he can hold out hope of featuring in the series. He will play today, however, only if the pitch alters dramatically overnight, in which unlikely event Robin Smith would replace Gallian at No 3. The desire to play two spin bowlers, shared by Raymond Illingworth, the manager, and his captain, Michael Atherton, has been overcome by a surface that does not appear to support the idea.

"It is patchy," Illingworth reported, "but the grassiest areas are on a spinner's length. The bare patches, which will encourage uneven bounce as the game goes on, will suit the seamers." Illingworth's view was endorsed by the former South Africa captain, Kepler Wessels, whose home ground this is. "My experience," Wessels said, "is that, although the spinners get some help at St George's, it is the pace bowlers who get most of the wickets."

Three years ago, in their inaugural home series after the end of isolation, Wessels led South Africa to victory over India here. It was the only positive result of a four-game series, and Allan Donald enforced it with 12 wickets. The suspicion now is that the quick bowlers will again profit from low bounce, at least so long as they maintain their accuracy.

Peter Martin, an important figure in this context, came through a test on his shoulder strain yesterday, but it is Dominic Cork, wicketless in Durban, who should be England's most effective bowler. Atherton will want to bat first, and he will want greater stability from the batsmen around him than has been forthcoming so far. "We need people to play big innings, not 30s and 40s," Illingworth said. "They all know what is riding on it now. We've been here 2½ months but it's all going to be settled by the last ten days of cricket."

But within this ancient ground, indeed around this entire country, England are bit-part players today. The romance belongs to Adams, and his skills are such that Dave Richardson, the South Africa wicketkeeper, is hoping to break a notable duck. "He's very excited," the team manager, Alan Jordaan, said. "He thinks he might get his first Test stumping."

DETAILS

SOUTH AFRICA (from) W J Cronje (captain), A C Hudson, G Kirsten, D J Cullinan, J N Rhodes, J H Kallis, B M McMillan, D J Richardson, S M Pollock, C R Matthews, A A Donald, P R Adams, N Boje. ENGLAND (from) M A Atherton (captain), A J Stewart, J E R Gallian, G P Thorpe, G A Hick, R A Smith, R C Russell, D G Cork, P J Martin, R K Illingworth, M C Ilott, M Watkinson

PORT ELIZABETH: Tests: 6. England won 4, S Africa 1, drawn 1. Records (England first): Highest totals: 435 (1964-65), 502 (1964-65). Lowest totals: 110 (1956-57), 30 (1895-96). Highest innings: 136 not out F G Mann (1948-49), 137 R G Pollock (1964-65). Best bowling: 8-7 G A Lohmann (1895-96), 6-78 H J Tayfield (1956-57)

GRAHAM MORRIS



Adams, who hopes to torment England in the fourth Test match that starts today, practises in the nets yesterday

Gallian out to solve problem position

FROM SIMON WILDE IN PORT ELIZABETH

IF, AS seems likely, England play six batsmen in the fourth Test match today, Jason Gallian, an opener by experience and a grafter by temperament, will go in first wicket down for the first time for as long as he can remember. It is something of a gamble, but it might just work; if it does, it could be the solution to a very old problem.

Since David Gower relinquished the England No 3 role at about the time that his first spell of captaincy ended, in 1986, there has been no stability and precious few runs from a position that is essential to the success of a Test side.

Whether Gallian or Smith bats there today, it will constitute the 57th change to the England No 3 position in 101 Test matches. In that time, 18 specialist batsmen have been tried but none has survived longer than five matches before being dropped, injured or moved elsewhere in the order. Only Gower and Ganting (two each), Athey, Stewart, Gooch and Hick (one each) have scored hundreds there.

All seven of the batsmen originally chosen for this tour are among those to have drunk from the poisoned chalice. For various reasons, they are no longer considered suitable candidates. Atherton and Stewart have established themselves as openers; Thorpe, Hick and Smith as lower middle-order stroke-makers. Crawley is injured, while, with his failure to survive the new ball, Ramprakash has forfeited the chance of further opportunities, at least for now.

The problem inherent in the position is that it demands so much of its incumbent, who might be required to face the second ball of the innings or not go in until the score is well into three figures. The key is that the player must possess the skills of an opener, and this is the thinking to which England have come round.

Raymond Illingworth, the manager, has apparently started harking back to the outstanding trio of openers that helped him to regain the Ashes in 1970-71: Boycott, Luckhurst and Edrich. Time and again, they gave Illingworth the trenchant start he needed. Atherton, Stewart and Gallian might now be able to do something similar.

Australia's success in recent years has owed much to having had a former opening batsman at No 3 in David Boon, who has scored 12 Test centuries in that position. West Indies have been similarly well served, first by Richardson, then by Lara. New Zealand have had Andrew Jones, South Africa have had Cronje, India have possessed a string of reliable No 3s, while Sri Lanka have had Gurusinha and Zimbabwe have had Alistair Campbell.

Only Pakistan have struggled more than England. Before Ijaz Ahmed scored 137 at Sydney last month, a series of 13 specialist batsmen had failed to make a century at No 3 for Pakistan in almost seven years and 45 Test matches.

It must be hoped that Gallian can now provide Atherton with the upper-order "stodge" that he is looking for. Gallian is, reportedly, an adaptable soul, and has modelled himself on one of England's more successful No 3s in Gatting, who is an old family friend. In these ways as well, then, his credentials are good.

ICC exonerates Sri Lanka

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE International Cricket Council (ICC) yesterday cleared Sri Lanka of charges of ball-tampering during the first Test against Australia at Perth earlier this month. ICC also criticised the umpires involved and expressed its "sincere regrets" to the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka and the players.

The decision ends a dispute that had threatened to overshadow the second Test, that starts today in Melbourne.

"It's really good that this has been done," Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, said. "We were very keen to clear our name. Some of the things we heard made it very uncomfortable for us, but we knew that we might get cleared and it's really good news."

The umpires in the first Test, Peter Parker (Australia) and Khizar Hayat (Pakistan), told Ranatunga at the time that the ball had "clearly been altered" by a member or members of his team during Australia's first innings in Perth, and Graham Dowling, the ICC's match referee, found the Sri Lankans guilty of ball-tampering.

The decision by the umpires not to replace the ball was criticised in the ICC statement. The laws of the game state that, if a ball is judged to have been altered, it should be changed. There was also no video evidence to back up a charge of tampering.

"The decision not to change the ball at that time was clearly incorrect," the statment, signed by David Richards, ICC's chief executive said. "In the interests of fairness and as the ball was not replaced, ICC cannot determine that the condition of the ball had been altered and as such, the Sri Lankan team therefore stands evonerated."

In Colombo, the Sri Lanka board said that its teams always played by the rules. "The board also emphasises that it believes a feature of Sri Lanka cricket has been to play the game in accordance with the spirit as well as the letter of the laws of cricket," it said in a statement. The Sri Lankans all along maintained that the hard ground at Perth, not one of their players, was responsible for damaging the ball.

Ranatunga missed net practice yesterday, raising fears that a finger injury on his right hand, sustained attempting a catch in a World Series Cup match last Thursday, might not have recovered. Australia's problems have eased: Shane Warne, Steve Waugh and Paul Reiffel are all fit to play.

Australia won in Perth by an innings and 36 runs in four days; victory in Melbourne would give them their fourth series victory this calendar year, after wins over England, West Indies and Pakistan.

West Indies aim for return of pace attack

WEST INDIES are expected to call on at least two of the three frontline members of their fast-bowling battery for the one-day match against Queensland in Brisbane today. Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh and Ian Bishop were rested from the drawn three-day game against an Australian XI during the weekend, but two are likely to return for the day-night match with the Sheffield Shield champions.

"There's a possibility you might see one or two back," Richie Richardson, the captain, said yesterday. "The three that didn't play have some minor injuries — but we don't have any more than 15 players here."

The pressure has continued to mount on the embattled Richardson after the touring side suffered another upper-order batting collapse — despite producing a better overall performance — in the drawn match. Richardson scored just 11 before playing on to a ball from Paul Reiffel as West Indies slumped to 197 for six before a late rally. Richardson, who batted at No 6 in the West Indies' 24-run loss to Australia in Melbourne last Tuesday, may opt to stay down the order for the match against Queensland.

The Australian XI made 323 for seven declared in their first innings while the second day was washed out. West Indies made 325 in their first innings and the home side were 17 without loss in its second innings when play ended.

☐ New Zealand beat Pakistan by 32 runs in the final one-day international at Eden Park, Auckland, on Saturday to square the series 2-2. The New Zealanders produced their best performance, with Craig Spearman making 48 and Adam Parore 42 for a total of 244 for eight.

COLLECT 30 TOKENS FOR A CHANCE TO WIN £20,000 CASH



Win a cruise to the heart of Europe

The Times and *The Sunday Times* have been offering readers the chance to win one of 80 holidays for two, plus 10 per cent discounts, to a range of destinations throughout the world.

This is the last few days of our epic journey and today's prize is an eight-day cruise for two worth £2,120. It starts with a flight to Amsterdam then your ship, the *MS Austria*, sails from Rotterdam, the largest port in Europe. Cruising from the lowlands of Holland you pass Dordrecht, once the wealthiest commercial town in the Netherlands and the port of Nijmegen, before reaching Germany and the cosmopolitan cities of Dusseldorf and Cologne with its famous Gothic cathedral. Then you cruise to the Alsace capital, Strasbourg, when you will have time to explore the fascinating city before your leisurely return downstream cruise to Rotterdam.

THE TIMES Around the World in 80 Days £20,000 TOKEN 78

DEPARTURES: Weekly from April 30 to Oct 8, 1996. The price for this cruise, with our exclusive 10% discount, is from £715.50 per person, down from £795, including return travel.

HOW TO WIN

To win today's holiday answer the question below and phone our competition hotline: 0891 40 50 34 which is open until midnight tonight. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. Normal *Times* Newspapers competition rules apply.

1. Which is the biggest port in Europe?

Calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times.

KD

KD River Cruises offers readers 10% discount on today's holiday and all the cruises featured this week. The price covers return travel, twinshare accommodation for seven nights and sumptuous food. For a brochure call:

01372 742033

TOMORROW: WIN A CRUISE ON THE MOSELLE

Wigan set to exhibit capacity for tradition

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ONLY two dates in the pre-Super League rugby league calendar are virtually guaranteed to be sold out. Spring time at Wembley and the Challenge Cup final is likely to be a movable feast by 1997, while the Boxing Day derby programme today will be savoured as the last meaningful one.

Talk of Christmas challenge matches next year and four-way tournaments is aimed at holding on to slender threads of tradition, but, coming four months after the new September finish to a summer season, would there seriously be any interest? Certainly not from players plunged from summer back into winter.

Shaun Edwards, the Wigan captain, said: "If they do want me to play on Boxing Day next year, they'll have to fly me from Barbados. I don't plan on being around." His sentiments are widely shared, although there are twinges of regret at the passing today of another tradition.

The centenary season has proved, as was feared, an awkward and unwieldy bridgehead between the game's first 100 years and the start of the Super League in March. Crowds have dipped, some matches have been hopelessly uncompetitive, and one of the few customs to survive the Super League cull has been the maintenance of Wigan's dominance. Yet, in spite of it all, Central Park will be packed by close on 30,000 for the bun fight between Wigan and St Helens.

A rivalry between two former Lancashire coal towns less than ten miles apart is the parochialism on which rugby league thrives, for all its worldly ambitions. The holiday fixture is as near a guarantee as there is to excellence and entertainment, as watchers of the memorable fare last year would testify. Va'aiga Tuigamala intervened decisively in a see-saw encounter at Knowsley Road, with a typically blockbusting try to tip the scales in favour of Wigan, whose last championship defeat at home to St Helens was eight years ago. Phil Veivers scored two tries that day. With injury and suspension accounting for half the St Helens side, Veivers, 31, the club's longest-serving player, is set to start a match for the first time this season.

The Australian utility player still recounts with glee the 32-22 Boxing Day victory in 1987. "A derby against Wigan makes the hairs on the back of the neck stand on end, but that was definitely my most memorable," he said. "We were 26-6 down at half-time but came back. I was awarded an eight-point try when Graeme West [now the Wigan coach] cleaned me out as I went over."

In a young side, missing Bobbie Goulding and Paul Newlove, Veivers is one of the few St Helens players steeled in the derby match furnace. Even with victory, it would probably only marginally disturb Wigan's procession — albeit falteringly of late — towards a seventh successive Stones championship.

The next league meeting between the sides will be in the Super League on Good Friday, April 5, when Leeds and Castleford, who kick off at Headingley today at the absurdly early hour of 11.30am, also next encounter one another.

Dean Bell's is one of the voices welcoming change. "It's been a great tradition for everyone to go out on the day after Christmas and see a derby match," the Leeds coach said, "but we must move on."

RESULTS: Stones Championship: First division: Huddersfield 10 Hull 23. Silk Cut Challenge Cup: Second round replay: Egremont 13 Woolston 6. Yorkshire Electricity Cup: Final: Thornhill 6 Skirlaugh 11

Nash's growing potential knows no boundaries

Simon Wilde meets a precocious talent who, at 17, has been likened to Alan Knott



Nash has been capped for England at every age-group level and played in September for the Middlesex first XI. Photograph: John Potter

Micky Stewart is not often given to effusive praise, but in this case he made an exception. "When I first saw him, he came across as an exciting, vibrant and urgent sort of cricketer, an Alan Knott type," he said. "Everything was quick and sharp, both keeping and batting. From his earliest days, he was a player with a lot of initiative who would come out on top. He has the confidence and 'arrogance' a successful sportsman needs."

Stewart, the National Cricket Association's director of coaching and former England manager, spoke as though the player that he was talking about was a seasoned professional, while, in fact, David Nash is still at school and does not turn 18 until next month.

In many ways, though, Nash is a seasoned professional. He has played for every England age-group side, spent two summers with Middlesex's second XI and tomorrow departs with the England under-19 team on a six-week tour of Zimbabwe. The tour will slice into his penultimate term at Malvern School, which he attends on a sports scholarship and where he is preparing to sit three A levels next summer.

If this makes Nash sound precocious, he is. Last summer, he was about to appear for the England under-17 team when a call came to join the under-19s in the first international against South Africa at Taunton. Undaunted, he kept wicket ably and, from No 8, played unbeaten innings of 56 and 25.

Retained for the next two matches, he scored 69 at Worcester and 98 not out at Headingley to finish with an eye-catching total of 248 runs to add to ten dismissals. England won the series 2-0. "I would have been disappointed not to be chosen for Zimbabwe," he said, understatedly.

Although Nash may still have some growing to do, he is unlikely ever to be a physically imposing figure around the stumps. Stewart likens him to a whippet, but the comparison with Knott may be the most enduring one and may not be entirely coincidental. Nash has been helped by Knott on his numerous visits to the National Sports Centre at Lilleshall in recent years.

Nash's enthusiasm for sport — he is also a talented footballer — was nurtured by his family: a grandfather was a professional footballer with West Ham United and won England schoolboy caps, his father a useful club cricketer. His early cricket was played in his native Surrey, at Sunbury Manor School and the Sunbury club. Richard Johnson, the Middlesex seam bowler, was a friend and inspiration at both.

Nash moved to Malvern two years ago, when he was the first to benefit from the school's newly-instituted sports scholarship. If his A level grades are good, he hopes to go to a sports-friendly university; if they are not, he intends to get on with his cricket career, almost certainly with Middlesex.

"Middlesex have taken a very enlightened attitude with David," Andy Murtagh, Malvern's master-in-charge of cricket, said. "Joe Hardstaff [the Middlesex secretary] has kept in regular touch with us and is anxious to know about David's all-round welfare. He wants him to have a back-up to his cricket."

Nash was slightly apprehensive about changing schools, but is enjoying life and his cricket has flourished under the guidance of two former county professionals in Murtagh and Roger Tolchard, the school's professional. He has fitted well into an unfamiliar social scene, partly, one suspects, through an ability to charm birds off trees.

Nash's first innings for Malvern witnessed one of his rare failures. He was leg-before to his first ball during a winter visit to South Africa, when the umpire was Peter Walker, the former England all-rounder, whose son is also at Malvern. Nash made swift amends by helping the school remain unbeaten last season.

In September, Nash made his debut for Middlesex's first XI, in an AXA Equity & Law league match at Taunton. "I was all right in the dressing-room, when everyone was wishing me luck, and I was all right going down the steps," he said, "but when I got out into the middle and looked around and all I could see was famous faces — Ramprakash, Gatting, Fraser — I suddenly felt terribly sick. It soon passed."

How long will it be before Nash is a famous face? For what it is worth, Murtagh also sees more than a passing resemblance with Knott. "He has the same sort of mannerisms," he said. "Before every ball, he has to touch the buckles on his pads four times and tap the ground with his bat six times. I've told him he'll have to cut that out at first-class level. They won't wait that long. When he walks down to our house, I can see him from my window. He touches every tree on the way down."

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

Test your knowledge with the Jumbo Sports Crossword

MOËT & CHANDON

THE TIMES presents the traditional festive challenge of the Jumbo Sports Crossword to test your knowledge over the holiday period — with a Methuselah of Moët Chandon champagne to the winner and six runners-up to receive copies of the sports book of the year.

The sender of the first correct entry drawn will receive £250 worth of champagne while *A Good Walk Spoiled*, an account of life on the United States professional golf tour by John Feinstein, a leading American sports writer, goes to the next six correct entries that are drawn.

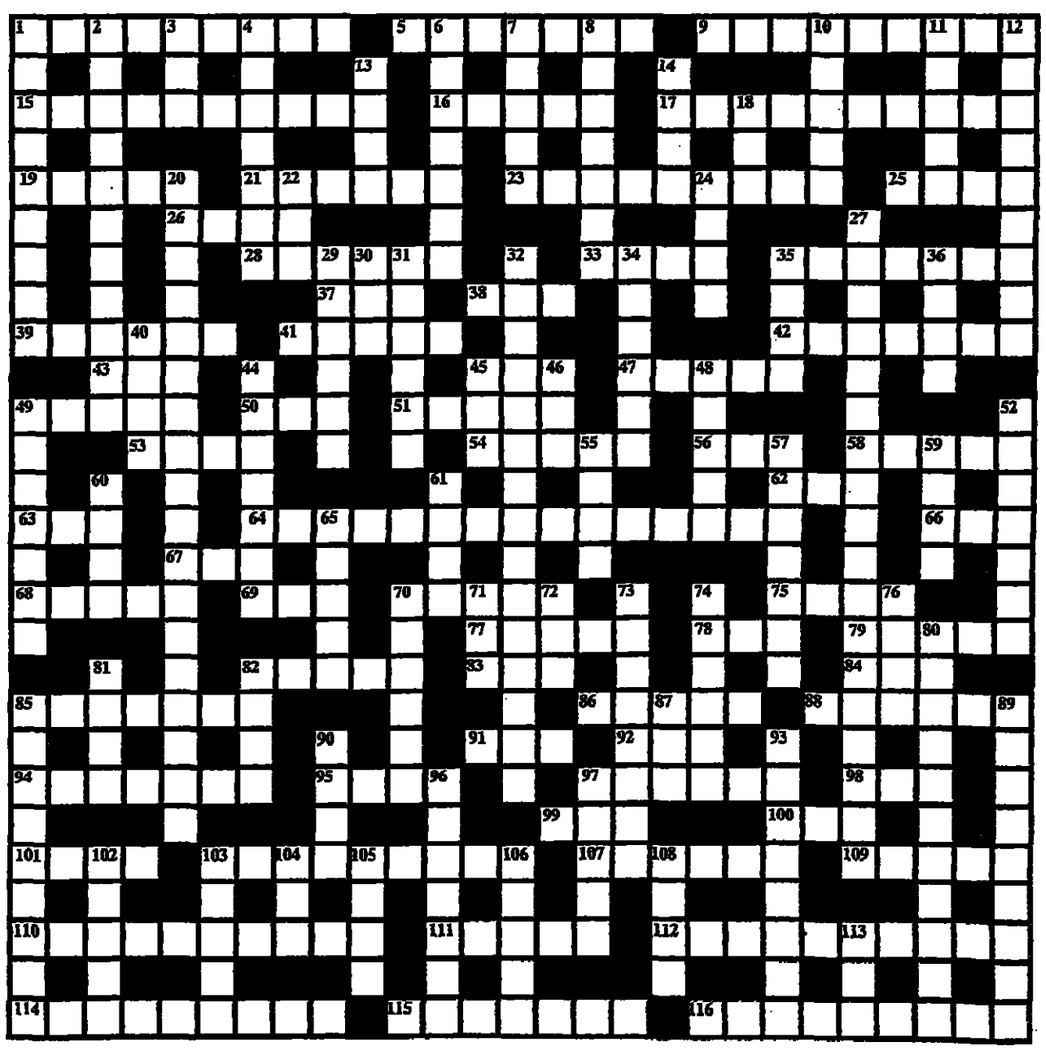
Charting the fortunes of the renowned players and the lesser lights over a turbulent 12 months, *A Good Walk Spoiled* won the William Hill sports book of the year award and is published by Little, Brown at £17.99.

To win, send your completed crossword, with your name, address and daytime telephone number, to:

Jumbo Sports Crossword,
Sports Department,
The Times,
1 Pennington Street,
London, E1 9XN

to arrive by Friday, January 12, 1996. The Sports Editor's decision is final. Usual rules apply. No correspondence.





COMPILED BY NORMAN GILLER

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

.....

.....

DAYTIME TELEPHONE: .....

ACROSS

1. A craftsman often at Bruno's side (9)
5. Has time been misspent playing this? (7)
9. A sport 'tec will watch (9)
15. He had a twin career with Surrey and England (4-6)
16. Prepare to drive (3-2)
17. In place on the pitch (10)
19. Indicate where to field (5)
21. Honeyghan's world title weight (6)
23. An active chap (9)
25. Stuart Pearce packs one of the hardest (4)
26. The game for which to leave home (4)
28. A leading colour on tour (6)
33. A nervous shot to the slips (4)
35. The dive to make the judges gulp? (7)
37. As held by Redgrave, for instance (3)
38. It goes to international heads (5)
39. Begin to feel relaxed at the wicket (6)
41. Hosts of the 1964 summer Olympics (5)
42. Art, even for this senior competitor (7)
43. Sebastian was anything but limited (3)
45. Cyril, who played for Orient, Ipswich and Wales (3)
47. Did he steal the 1968 FA Cup winning goal? (5)
49. The remains of a trophy? (5)
50. Yep, Jesse was quick on the draw for Wolves (3)
51. It is at the very roots of lawn tennis (5)
53. Seaman makes it look easy (4)
54. Thread a spell-binding way through the defence? (5)
56. Carnera was an ambling one (3)
58. New arrangement of Tosca, of course! (5)
62. In common with Woosnam and Rush (3)
63. Make contact (3)
64. The boxer who strikes out from defence (7-8)
66. Position of the golf ball (3)
67. Ian, who defended for Arsenal and Manchester United (3)
68. Tennis, the real sport of kings (5)
69. Get short with the man in charge (3)
70. They are used when wrestlers get to grips (5)
75. What even the fittest competitors start to do (4)
77. Is Sam a former England opener? (5)
78. A drawn cup match, perhaps (3)
79. Tailenders are not embarrased to have it (1-4)
82. Stain brings material change of boxer's shorts (5)
83. He is unlikely to be desperate at judo (3)
84. Weigh in with a century (3)
85. The pool for underground sports activity (7)
86. The Eagle who always landed too soon (5)
88. Something to watch on the course (6)
91. Great serve from a wild card? (5)
92. Harvey, Shackleton or Hutton (3)
94. Golfer's speech? (7)
95. They are given before the off (4)
97. Juan was never in a fog behind the wheel (6)
98. Take a single long shot with this iron (3)
99. Sharp target for golfers? (3)
100. Yashin, who was the Man in Black (3).
101. Boarders ride it (4)
103. A hunter wants it in writing (9)
107. Repair the pitch or the racetrack (6)
109. Common reaction to disputed line calls (5)
110. Put your foot down, Schumacher-style (10)
111. Nines for Ireland, the former motor racing ace (5)
112. The top scorer in the 1982 World Cup finals (5-5)
114. Custer at the crease with Atherton? (4-5)
115. Prim Sue will lead you to these officials (7)
116. Aussie who doubled on court for South Africa (3-6)



Six runners-up will win *A Good Walk Spoiled*

DOWN

1. They have their titles (9)
2. What the angler will hope to do (4-2-5)
3. Made an initial impact in the 1956 Grand National (3)
4. Head of the River scullers (7)
6. When the javelin does not go (2-5)
7. They are counted towards a new ball (5)
8. What a sprinter will do from the blocks (7)
10. Tony, who has saved at Watford and Maine Road (5)
11. The round in which Robinson stopped Turpin (5)
12. Trainer's instruction to jockey (4-2-3)
13. Brothers Jean and Maurice were difficult to trap (4)
14. From which a kick is often taken (4)
18. Torrance or Snead, perhaps (3)
20. What a forceful defender does (7-2-4-5)
22. It needs to be kept on the ball (3)
24. As planted at Wimbledon, for instance (4)
27. She often had Pam Shriver at her side (7-11)
29. Peter, an old hat-trick hero at Headingley (6)
30. One of honour is the best (3)
31. Does Graham Taylor not like this! (6)
32. What a final winning shot can bring (4-3-3-5)
34. A big punch can inflict it (6)
35. Get familiar with Ballesteros (4)
36. Bob, who was known as "Mr Burnley" (4)
40. Gymnasts are often on them (4)
44. John, who was three times world snooker champion (7)
45. Ex-Old Trafford idol in flawless form (3)
46. Hartford, the hole-in-the-heart footballer (3)
48. One for athletes to follow? (5)
49. A well targeted sport (7)
52. A cat-like exercise (7)
55. Managers dread the one of confidence! (4)
57. Spare it for the Pittsburgh baseball team (7)
59. Cleo changes for United (4)
60. What the horse with stamina will do (4)
61. Or he is worshipped in sport (4)
65. Not in good condition (5)
70. Jack Charlton has often done it away from football (6)
71. Windsor, the Derby winner (3)
72. The ice hockey bin (3)
73. What a swimmer and a driver did for direction (4-4)
74. Racehorses, collectively (6)
76. Robe for an old handicap race (4)
80. Anger is a sad way to identify a tennis star (5-6)
81. It is often shown in a tackle (4)
82. Do they harden in tennis? (4)
85. What the passing man does (5-4)
87. Not quite the end for Millwall's old ground (3)
89. The 1953 Grand National winner (5-4)
90. Henry, who was the steeplechase king (4)
93. You can belong to one or go round with it (4-4)
96. Must aid for the sports venue (7)
97. A competitor does it at Bisley (5)
102. Cares for the events (5)
103. The percentage man of sport (5)
104. Interval for a cup in cricket (3)
105. Norman or Rusedski (4)
106. There's a change in her for Leconte (5)
108. Some from racing experts make you want to spit! (4)
113. He is making his mark on the European golf circuit (3)

England's champions determined to continue their learning process

Bath widen outlook with turn to West

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

BATH, those compulsive learners and winners, will end the old year as they began it: setting the standards for others. Five days after the keenly-fought Pilkington Cup tie with Northampton, Bath officials plan a meeting with Graeme West to see what further refinements they can introduce to their game.

West, of course, is one of rugby league's leading coaches, but Bath have never been afraid of learning from others. Brian Ashton, their coach, and John Hall, the director of rugby, will meet West on Thursday, not so much to discuss the much-touted end-of-season meeting with his club, Wigan, but to talk tactics.

The most obvious advantage to be derived from Bath playing Wigan is financial, which is a prime consideration for Bath. They are having a business plan drawn up which will, in effect, advertise England's leading rugby union club as a going concern to a benevolent backer.

"We have an agreement from our members to move forward and that may involve an investor having a say in the running of the club," John Quin, the secretary, said. "The aim is to have the business plan ready prior to an extraordinary general meeting planned for February 8."

However, Ashton, with the playing side at heart, is keen to study how rugby league breaks down the flat defences that now proliferate in the 15-a-side code, and the defensive drills that league clubs such as Wigan employ. "There is a massive well of conservatism in rugby union," Ashton said after Bath's 12-3 victory over Northampton at a cold, muddy Recreation Ground.

However, rugby league has been a profitable source of study for rugby union coaches before, and Ashton is eager to demonstrate that union, standing on its own feet and without reducing the number of players, can offer an attractive spectacle and the consistent action which that great pressure point, television, demands. Depending on the value of the meeting on Thursday, he may involve players in subsequent discussions.

Whatever a television audience made of the fourth-round cup-tie on Saturday, the 8,000 who gathered under leaden skies to watch the leading team in the first division play their second-division counterparts received their money's worth. "Three rolling mauls made the difference," Ian McGeechan, the Northampton director of rugby, said, and, in that they led to Jonathan Callard's decisive penalty goals, he was right.

Yet again, however, Bath's planning off the field presaged their success. Over four days in Portugal, they worked on counters to the towering presence of Martin Bayfield at the lineout, stole critical possession and ended in credit — though how many times have we seen Nigel Redman and the unconsidered Martin Haag do that before?

More often than not, Bath were able to dictate where the game was played and, on another day, they would have scored two or even three tries, despite the magnificent defensive efforts of the Northampton midfield. Ben Clarke may still be pondering the thought processes that led him to kick ahead when he had the support of Ian Sanders and Andy Robinson, and only Michael Dods in his way, after an eruption from a rolling maul.

Even if Northampton will not feature in the fifth-round draw, to be made at Twickenham on January 2, their ambition remains unimpaired. "I want us to be one of England's top three sides and we are 60 per cent towards where I want us to be," McGeechan said. He is not looking to strengthen a squad that demonstrated so clearly an ability to work for each other and to live in the highest company English rugby can offer.

All the famous names in England's cup history remain in the draw: Wasps, the beaten finalists last season, Harlequins, Leicester, even Coventry, whose glory days were twenty years ago. Yet Coventry could gather particular satisfaction from their 19-9 defeat of Blackheath, with whom they changed places in the league last season.

If there were surprises, they came from Nottingham's comfortable dismissal of London Scottish by 32-16, and the victory of Leeds over Waterloo. Scottish have been the second division's other pacesetters, behind Northampton, and accounted for Nottingham by 17-9 back in September; but in the cup they succumbed to the boot of Simon Hodgkinson, the former England full back, who scored 17 points.

Leeds, from the fourth division, have invested heavily this season and 14 new recruits await qualification in the new year. Not all will be available on January 27, when the fifth round is played, but tries by Phil Griffin and Lee Denham, their flankers, helped them to a 20-15 win over second-division opponents and perhaps some unexpected opportunities now await.

PAUL WALTERS



De Glanville, the Bath captain, is stopped in his tracks by Moir during the Pilkington Cup fourth-round tie at the Recreation Ground

Cardiff's sharp form augurs well for coming cup encounter

By Gerald Davies

THE two Welsh clubs involved in the Heineken Cup next Saturday enjoyed mixed fortunes at the weekend. Cardiff beat Neath 28-8 in what was, mostly, a fine contest at the Arms Park, with 18 of their points coming from Adrian Davies, their stand-off half. Swansea, however, lost by a worrying margin of 25 points to Ebbw Vale.

Will Cardiff, as they anticipate a semi-final against Leinster in Dublin, interpret their result as a timely good omen which they desperately needed after losing twice at home in the previous fortnight in the Heineken League in Wales? Swansea, on the other hand, may be persuaded before they visit Toulouse that a disastrous rehearsal can only stimulate an extra effort to make it come all right on the day.

TABLE

HEINEKEN LEAGUE
First division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Cardiff	13	10	0	3	426	204	51	15	35
Llanelli	13	9	0	4	370	189	51	16	34
Neath	13	8	1	4	349	194	52	14	31
Swansea	13	7	0	6	409	252	57	16	30
Pontypridd	11	9	0	2	329	157	37	11	29
Bridgend	14	7	0	7	334	277	42	12	26
Newport	14	9	1	4	291	305	26	6	25
Newbridge	14	8	0	6	243	268	33	8	24
Ebbw Vale	14	6	0	8	245	349	26	4	16
Treorchy	13	1	0	12	217	461	26	5	7
Aberavon	13	2	0	11	178	434	19	3	7
Abertillery	13	2	0	11	203	504	19	3	7

Each club has, thus far, given a good account of itself in the inaugural European tournament. Though Swansea lost away to Munster and Cardiff drew with Bègles, both provided stimulating performances at home against Castres and Ulster. They now have to play away — and that will prove a stiff test.

What is certain so far is that the competition has raised the sights of the clubs. To test themselves against teams from outside their own boundaries has meant that they have had to improve their standards.

That both clubs have acquitted themselves well against French sides, whose standards were largely unknown but whose national team is always competing for the highest honours, should be a source of satisfaction. Perhaps the standard of Welsh club rugby is not as low as it is sometimes made out to be. Whatever happens from now on, the standard of competition this season has ensured a keen interest to qualify for the enlarged format next year.

Indeed, the top of the first division is proving quite a race. Though Cardiff have been a constant force, there is a continuing state of flux underneath. Pontypridd, who were chasing hard on their tail at one stage, have dropped to fifth place but have two games in hand. Neath, who were second before the weekend, have since relinquished their position to Llanelli, who beat the hapless Treorchy.

There are only six points separating the top five teams. What happens between now and the end of the season is totally unpredictable. Adding to the uncertainty is the use of bonus points for the number of tries scored in a match. Up to three extra points, on top of the two for a win, makes any attempt to predict the final outcome a treacherous and, ultimately, pretty useless occupation.

Three bonus points for Llanelli on Saturday lifted them to within a single point of Cardiff at the top. With such a scoring system, it is conceivable, but improbable, that other clubs may come into the reckoning, too.

Neath are seen as the new kids on the block. They are young, fit, quick and they run around with vast energy, but this is not of the headless chicken variety of a few seasons ago. They are playing some wonderful rugby.

Darryl Jones, one of their coaches, believes that they have come a long way so quickly that they may have raised expectations unrealistically — and a little too soon.

On Saturday, they had to confront a Cardiff whose pack proved simply too powerful. For an hour, it was a terrific contest, played at a fast pace and with a fine variety of skills on display; but possession, particularly at the lineout, where Cardiff dominated, finally forced the game to drift away from the visitors. The race for the top, however, continues to sizzle nicely; and this is the route to Europe.

RUGBY UNION RESULTS

Pilkington Cup

Fourth round

Bath 12 Northampton 3
Bath: Pens: Callard 4. Northampton: Pen: Grayson.

Bedford 27 Worcester 12
Bedford: Tries: Cook, Rennell 2, Thomson. Cons: Finnie 2. Pen: Finnie Worcester: Tries: Blakeway, Lyman Con: Richards.

Blackheath 9 Coventry 19
Blackheath: Pens: Hanne 3 Coventry: Try: Herrobin Con: Hart Pens: Hart 4.

Camberley 0 Wakefield 18
Wakefield: Tries: Falkingham, Griffiths, Sleighholme Pen: Jackson

Exeter 0 Leicester 27
Leicester: Tries: Hamilton 2, penalty try Cons: Liley 3 Pens: Liley 2.

Gloucester 47 Walsall 0
Gloucester: Tries: Bern, Cashe 2, Deacon, Glanville 2, Holford, Miles Cons: Hart, T Smith Dropped goal: Hart

Leeds 20 Waterloo 15
Leeds: Tries: Denham, Griffin Cons: Eddie 2 Pens: Eddie 2. Waterloo: Pens: Thompson 4 Dropped goal: Handley.

London Irish 21 London Welsh 3
London Irish: Tries: Corcoran, Haly Con: Corcoran Pens: Corcoran 3 London Welsh: Pen: Raymond

Newcastle 26 Moseley 5
Newcastle: Tries: Arnold, Frankland, Long, Metcalfe Cons: Cramb 3. Moseley: Try: Williamson

Nottingham 32 London Scottish 16
Nottingham: Tries: Bygrave 2, Jackson Con: Hodgkinson Pens: Hodgkinson 5. London Scottish: Try: Fraser Con: Russell Pens: Russell 3.

Orrell 17 Harlequins 19
Orrell: Tries: Smith, Wynn. Cons: Mason 2. Pen: Mason Harlequins: Tries: Carling, O'Leary Pens: Challinor 2, Staples.

Reading 7 Bristol 44
Reading: Try: Phillips. Con: Hill. Bristol: Tries: A Snarp, Bracken 2, Breeze 2, Hull, Thomas. Cons: Thomas 3 Pen: Thomas.

Sale 9 Wasps 18
Sale: Pens: Lloy 3 Wasps: Tries: Dallaglio, Gomarsall Con: Gregory Pens: Gregory 2

Saracens 27 Rugby 7
Saracens: Tries: Chesney 2, Hames, Hill Cons: Lee 2. Pen: Lee Rugby: Try: Quantrill. Con: Quantrill.

Weston-s-Mare 9 West Hartlepool 25
Weston-super-Mare: Pens: Thatcher 2 Dropped goal: Cattermole West Hartlepool: Tries: Leach, Lee, Wainwright 2. Con: Simpson. Pen: Simpson.

Wirrington Park 26 Lydney 11
Wirrington Park: Tries: David, Rees, Yardley. Con: Oliver Pens: Oliver 3. Lydney: Try: James Pens: Mills 2

PILKINGTON SHIELD: Fifth round: London and South East division: Billericay 8 Hadleigh 22; Enfield Ignatians 21 Deal Wanderers 10; Folkestone 19 Dover 3. London French 16 Battersea Ironsides 7. Postponed: London Exiles v Old Ashmolean. Midland division: Berkswell and Balsall Common 6 Ledbury 6 (aet, Ledbury qualify as away team); Upton-upon-Severn 16 Erdington 14. Postponed: Bedford Swifts v Wellingborough Old Grammarians. Northern division: Huddersfield YMCA 19 Newton-le-Willows 19; Hullensians 0 Medicals 9; Maple 3 Old Anselmians 12; Sholi Stanlow 3 North Shields 13. South and South West division: Helston 29 Bodmin 12; Old Bristolians 18 Topsham 15; Trowbridge 8 Yardley and District 11; Westbury 0 Old Centralians 13.

Heineken League

First division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Dunvant	13	11	0	2	331	133	45	13	35
Pontypool	13	9	0	4	305	208	36	9	27
Caerphilly	14	10	0	4	254	190	30	7	27
Cross Keys	13	7	0	6	304	215	37	9	23
Bonymaen	14	6	0	8	289	283	33	8	20
Llandovery	14	9	0	5	218	226	22	2	20
Maesteg	13	6	0	7	210	235	23	4	16
Abercynon	14	6	0	8	213	245	25	3	15
Ystradgynlais	14	6	0	8	212	253	22	2	14
S W Police	13	4	0	9	215	273	26	5	13
Tenby Utd	14	4	0	10	182	341	21	3	11
Llanharan	13	3	0	10	220	353	21	2	8

Abertillery 33 Newport 50
Abertillery: Tries: G Gladwyn, M Williams, Phillips. Cons: M Williams 3. Pens: M Williams 3 Dropped goal: Connors. Newport: Tries: Arnold, D Hughes, G Rees 2. penalty try. Cons: D Hughes, G Rees 4 Pens: G Rees 5

Cardiff 28 Neath 8
Cardiff: Tries: A Davies, Moore, Williams Cons: A Davies 2. Pens: A Davies 3. Neath: Try: Scott. Pen: Bridges

Ebbw Vale 25 Swansea 0
Ebbw Vale: Tries: Lewis, Morgan, penalty try Cons: Hayward 2 Pens: Hayward 2

Newbridge 25 Bridgend 22
Newbridge: Tries: Derrick, Marshall 2. Cons: Strange 2 Pens: Strange 5. Bridgend: Tries: Ball, Gale, Greenslade, P Jones Con: M Lewis

Treorchy 10 Llanelli 43
Treorchy: Tries: A Thomas, Hammans Llanelli: Tries: D Evans, Hames, P Jones, Pearce, Proctor 2, Wyatt. Cons: Pearce 4

POSTPONED: Aberavon v Pontypridd.

Second division

Caerphilly 13 Pontypool 6
Caerphilly: Try: Hammond. Con: Conway Pens: Conway 2. Pontypool: Pens: Williams 2

Maesteg 27 Bonymaen 14
Maesteg: Tries: Davey, Morgan 2, Pens: Pearce 3 Dropped goal: Pearce Bonymaen: Tries: Bowling, Williams Cons: Roberts 2

Tenby Utd 9 Llandovery 12
Tenby Utd: Pens: Bowen 3. Llandovery: Tries: A Davies, Giles. Con: N Griffiths.

Ystradgynlais 16 Abercynon 11
Ystradgynlais: Try: Donovan Con: Lowe Pens: Lowe 3. Abercynon: Try: Savage Pens: Savage 2

POSTPONED: Llanharan v Cross Keys.

SWALEC CUP: Fourth round: Postponed: Talywain v Dunvant

Irish inter-provincial championship

Connacht 11 Munster 46
Connacht: Try: Hanslip Pens: Elwood 2. Munster: Tries: Crotty 2, D Clohessy, P Clohessy, Toland, Walsh Cons: Smith 5 Pens: Smith 2.

(In Galway)

Leinster 31 Ulster 3
Leinster: Tries: Galvin, Jameson, Wallace Cons: A McGowan 2 Pens: A McGowan 4 Ulster: Pen: McCall.

(In Dublin)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leinster	4	4	0	0	133	53	8
Ulster	4	3	0	1	73	53	6
Munster	4	2	0	2	84	50	4
Exiles	4	1	0	3	71	113	2
Connacht	4	0	0	4	43	136	0

Club matches

Berry Hill 37 Hereford 15
Birmingham 11 Bromsgrove 8
Fylde 28 Vale of Lune 10
Havant 24 Bournemouth 20
Henley 22 Maidenhead 13
Kendal 15 Middlesbrough 3
Morley 41 Bradford 17
North Walsham 22 Norwich 9
Nuneaton 9 Cheltenham 31
Redruth 24 Penzance 5
Richmond 53 High Wycombe 15
Sandal 35 Old Crossleyans 0
Sheffield 3 Harrogate 25
Stourbridge 50 Whitchurch 19

CANCELLED: St Ives v Exeter; Stoke v Stafford; Wharfedale v Northern

Tennents inter-district championship

South of Scot 23 Glasgow Dist 5
South of Scotland: Tries: Joiner 2 Cons: Welsh 2. Pens: Welsh 3. Glasgow District: Try: Matthewson.

Newcastle's warriors fell busy Bison

By Norman de Mesquita

THE increasing professionalism of British ice hockey can be gauged by the number of games to be played during the holiday period. Five years ago, imports would go back to Canada for Christmas and the sport would virtually close down.

This year, 72 fixtures will be completed in 16 days in the two divisions of the British League. Basingstoke Bison, Swindon Wildcats, Telford Tigers, Blackburn Hawks and Murrayfield Royals are the busiest teams, with eight games apiece.

Basingstoke made a disappointing start, losing at home to Nottingham Panthers and away to Newcastle Warriors. The Bison led 4-1 at the second interval in Newcastle, but the Warriors had a strong final period with Scott Morrison, the former Bison, scoring the winning goal less than four minutes from the end. The Panthers never lost the lead at Basingstoke and owed much to Neil Morgan; he was involved in four of their five goals. In contrast, they found Sheffield Steelers, even in the absence of the suspended Nicky Chinn and Tony Hand, too strong for them, with Tim Cranston scoring five goals for the Steelers.

The Panthers lost Mike Blaisdell, their player-coach, in the second period when he was ejected for a slashing offence that saw Ron Shudra, the Sheffield captain, taken to hospital with a suspected broken wrist. The Steelers scored two goals during the resultant power play and that proved the eventual difference.

That win took the Steelers into joint second place in the premier division, four points behind Cardiff Devils with three games in hand. The Panthers have the same number of points, but only two games in hand. Telford Tigers, with a home win over Paisley Pirates and an away win over Peterborough Pirates, moved into joint-third place in the first division and must be seen as a real promotion threat — at least as long as their French-Canadian forward duo of Mario Belanger and Claude Dumas stay healthy. They combined for 17 of the Tigers' 19 goals in the two weekend wins.

Swindon Wildcats had a mixed weekend in Scotland. They beat Murrayfield Royals embarrassingly easily, but lost to Paisley Pirates after Mark Dowd, their goaltender, was taken to hospital as a precautionary measure, having been knocked out in a collision.

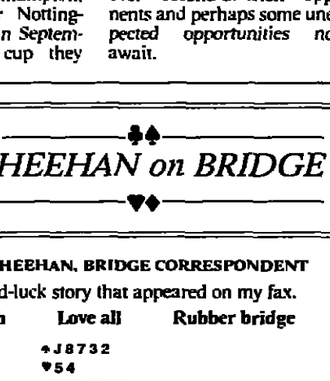
BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke 2 Nottingham 8; Fife 4 Newcastle 1; Newcastle 5 Basingstoke 4; Sheffield 8 Nottingham 6. First division: Billingham 1 Blackburn 12; Bracknell 15 Solihull 2; Chelmsford 10 Peterborough 10; Dumfries 1 Manchester 9; Medway 3 Guildford 5; Murrayfield 1 Swindon 19; Telford 8 Paisley 5; Blackburn 10 Medway 2; Murrayfield 7 Billingham 4; Paisley 8 Swindon 4; Peterborough 7 Telford 11

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

This is a recent hard-luck story that appeared on my fax.

Dealer South — Love all — Rubber bridge



S	W	N	E
1 S	Double	2 S	Pass
Pass	3 C	4 S	Pass
Pass	Double	All pass	

Contract: Four Spades doubled — Lead: King of Spades

John Graham, *Tatler* bridge correspondent, held the West hand. He asked me what was the worst bid in the auction. In particular, was it possible for him to make the winning action of passing Two Spades?

On that point, I was sympathetic — West clearly has to bid again when Two Spades comes back to him; but Three Clubs is the wrong reopening. That shows a strong hand with a good club suit.

The correct action by West is to double again, which might have inhibited North from taking another bid. Most duplicate players would have bid Four Spades on his hand on the first round, which makes Two Spades a candidate for worst bid. When North bids Four Spades over Three Clubs, I think it is clear that East should have bid Five Clubs — see my comment on Three Clubs. So, Pass is the other candidate.

The final indignity for Graham was in the play. After winning the spade lead, the declarer led the queen of diamonds. Not appreciating the danger, West cashed the queen of spades and continued with a low club and the declarer made 11 tricks. Cashing the ace of hearts stops the overtrick. It just goes to show how long suits and distribution can overpower high cards.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Van Wely leads

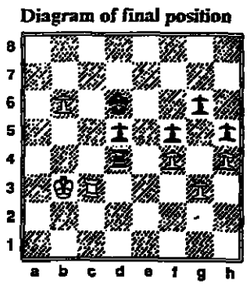
LOEK VAN WELY, the Dutch grandmaster, leads the standings with four points from six games in the important tournament at Groningen, Holland, which is in progress over the festive season. In the sixth round, played on Christmas Eve, Van Wely maintained his lead by beating Michael Adams, the British grandmaster. Anatoly Karpov and Gata Kamsky, the contenders for the Fide crown, fought a bitter battle over seven hours lasting 99 moves. It ended in a draw, thus leaving Karpov and Kamsky sharing second place on 3½.

White: Loek van Wely
Black: Michael Adams
Groningen, December 1995

English Opening

1	d4	d6
2	c4	e5
3	Nf3	e4
4	Ng5	f5
5	Nc3	Be7
6	Nh3	c6
7	g3	Nf6
8	Bg2	0-0
9	0-0	Na6
10	f3	exf3
11	exf3	d5
12	cxd5	Nxd5
13	Nf4	Nac7
14	Qb3	Bf6
15	Rd1	Rf7
16	Nfxd5	Nxd5
17	Nxd5	Qxd5
18	Qxd5	cxd5
19	Bf4	Be6
20	Be5	Bd8
21	Rac1	Bb6
22	f4	Rff8
23	Bc7	Rfc8
24	Bxb6	axb6
25	a3	Kf7
26	Bf1	Ke7
27	Rxc8	Rxc8
28	Bd3	g6
29	Kf2	Kd6
30	h3	Bd7
31	Rg1	h5
32	Ke3	Re8+
33	Kd2	Rh8
34	Be2	Rf8
35	Rc1	Rh8
36	Rc3	Bc6
37	Rb3	Kc7
38	Bf3	Rf8
39	Re3	Kd6
40	Re5	Rf7
41	b3	b5
42	Kc3	Rf8
43	Kb4	Ra8
44	Be2	Bd7
45	Re3	Ra7
46	h4	Ra8
47	Bxb5	Bxb5
48	Kxb5	Rxa3
49	Kb6	Ra2
50	Rd3	Rb2
51	Kxb7	Rc2
52	Kb6	Rc8
53	b4	Rb8+
54	Ka5	Ra8+
55	Kb5	Rb8+
56	Ka4	Ra8+
57	Kb3	Ra1
58	Rc3	Rd1
59	b5	Rxd4
60	b6	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

Christmas Dickensians

MARLEY
a. A Santa Claus
b. A jovial innkeeper
c. A Christmas ghost

TROTTY VECK
a. A barmaid
b. A susceptible ticket-porter
c. A secret benefactor

JOHN PEERYBINGLE
a. A jolly old buffer
b. A police spy
c. A happy carter

REDLAW
a. A forgetful man
b. A cruel magistrate
c. A disinheriting uncle

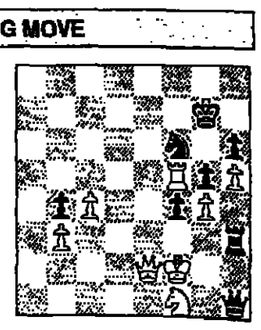
Answers on page 34

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Speelman — Bareev, Hastings Premier, 1990. With his horribly exposed king, White is clearly in terrible danger. Can you see how Black terminated proceedings?

Solution on page 34



Merry Gale to take Kempton by storm



Richard Evans, racing journalist of the year, previews the featured chase and expects an Irish victory

MERRY GALE can live up to his festive name by blowing away the chances of the overhyped One Man and nine other rivals in the King George VI Tripleprint Chase at Kempton today to provide the Irish with their first winner of the race for 20 years.

The Jim Dreaper-trained runner not only has the form and a touch of real class, but possesses the ideal credentials to succeed in Boxing Day's feature event.

Improving seven-year-olds — including Pendil, Captain Christy, Silver Buck, Wayward Lad, Desert Orchid and Barton Bank — have a tremendous record in the King George, and Merry Gale's performance last season, when finishing fourth in the Cheltenham Gold Cup before winning the Martell Cup at Aintree, highlights his outstanding claims.

Having finished second over an inadequate two miles on his seasonal reappearance, Merry Gale won the *Punchestown Chase last* month in workmanlike style. However, after the race the normally reserved Dreaper said he expected his seven-year-old to improve by up to a stone before this afternoon's race — and those hopes appear to have been justified.

"He has improved that much. I can tell from his behaviour and because he is eating everything. He is interested and wants to have a go. On previous occasions when he is about 80 per cent fit, he goes a bit flat and doesn't eat very much. Once he gets over the hump he comes back, and that appears to have happened," Dreaper said.

"We didn't read too much into his Liverpool victory last season; the most important thing for us was the Gold Cup. What he tried to do on the day — gallop a lot of older horses into the ground on tacky going — was extremely difficult. If he had been ridden differently, he would almost certainly have finished second."

Ideally, Dreaper would prefer the ground to be good, but soft going on the fast-draining Kempton circuit is not as testing as elsewhere in the country and he added: "Like most good horses, he can go on any ground."

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MERRY GALE
(2.20 Kempton Park)
Next best: Storm North
(2.40 Wolverhampton)

Graham Bradley, who rode Merry Gale at Cheltenham and Aintree last season, added: "I won this race on Wayward Lad one day on horrible ground but they seem to slosh through it better at Kempton than most places. Three miles on a level track will be right up Merry Gale's street and I think he's got a great chance."

While One Man is undoubtedly an exciting horse, the Gordon Richards-trained grey is a ridiculously short price given the doubts about him being so effective on soft ground, and the memory of him falling in the Racing Post Chase over course and distance last season. Despite being in a minority of about one, I also believe he must show markedly improved form to win this race.

Barton Bank, who won this race two years ago and unseated Adrian Maguire at the last with the race at his mercy last season, undoubtedly has the ability to win another King George. But the kink in his jumping hardly makes him a betting proposition, particularly at around 3-1.

The supremely genuine Dublin Flyer made a winning reappearance in the Mackeson Cold Cup at Cheltenham, and would have had sound claims on good ground. However, the rain may have washed away his chances of victory as it will stretch his stamina to the limit.

With a guaranteed strong pace on the prevailing soft ground, the stamina of François Doumen's two French raiders will come into play. Last year's fortuitous winner, Algan and, in particular, last season's easy Racing Post Chase winner, Val D'Alene, could pose the biggest threats to **Merry Gale**, but I believe the Irish runner's class will gain the day.

Away from the television cameras, there are several enticing betting opportunities. At Wincanton, Jenny Pitman has found the ideal spot for **Smith's Band** (1.10). A winner over course and distance on his seasonal reappearance before beating Strong Medicine (subsequent winner) at Uttoxeter, he then came to grief over Sandown's tricky fences, but can resume winning ways here. On the same card, **Gales Cavalier** stands out in the Mid Season Chase (2.10).

David Bentley struck up a useful partnership with **Valiant Warrior** last season, winning three chases, and the pair are reunited at Wetherby (1.20) where Micky Hammond's chaser looks handicapped to resume the winning trail after two promising efforts this season.

Hammond has sound chances of winning with **Alcian Blue** (1.25 Market Rasen), but strongest stable confidence is reserved for **Clay County** in the £20,000 Harry Brown Memorial Cup at Woverhampton (2.00). The powerful front runner should love the tight track and can defy top weight at the main expense of the well handicapped Captain Khedive. On the same card, **Storm North** (2.40) looks to have a particularly solid chance.

Frank Scotto, chairman of Sedgefield racecourse, has every chance of seeing his colours carried to success by **Irish Gent** in the extended three mile chase (1.40), while down at Newton Abbot **Tale Of Endurance** is taken to put two disappointing runs behind him and oblige at a decent price in the Christmas Pudding Handicap Chase (3.05).



Merry Gale is strongly fancied to give the Irish their first King George VI Chase victory for 20 years

Cheryl's Lad to stay ahead of handicapper

KEMPTON PARK
CHANNEL 4

12.45: Is River North, a group one winner on the Flat, another Alderbrook? The reports from *Lady* Herries's yard suggest he is certainly above average, and the booking of Richard Dunwoody improves his prospects. However from a betting angle he must be worth opposing on his first attempt over hurdles.

But for a mistake at the last, Shankar could have beaten the well regarded Zephyrus at Cheltenham and is fancied by David Nicholson to go one better here. **Master Beveled** has excelled since being switched to hurdling and boasts decent form, every bit as good as his rivals. He appreciated soft ground on the Flat, and should be a value bet. Iggins and Desert Green are others to consider.

1.15: There is little between Hill Of Tullow and Major Summit, if a form line through Berude Not To is an accurate guide. Both are well regarded and likely to be vying for favouritism. However, **Feel The Power** has long been considered one of the most exciting horses in Kim Bailey's yard. He has reportedly schooled well, so may be worth risking on his fencing debut. Those looking for an each-way alternative should consider Mr Mulligan, who completed a treble when winning in a canter at Bangor last month.

1.45: Two well handicapped horses stand out here. Grooving is unbeaten in three starts over hurdles and Josh Gifford's proven mudlark looks well treated here. However, **Cheryl's Lad** *is improving at such a rate* that he could easily defy top weight with the minimum of fuss. He quickened off a fast pace in the style of a decent horse at Cheltenham 18 days ago and Nicky Henderson holds the five-year-old in high regard.

Kingsfold Pet should run a *big race on favoured ground* over his correct trip, while Fourth In Line, who is usually held up, made the running at Cheltenham last time and is likely to fare better if waiting tactics are re-employed.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.20: See left.

2.50: ***Simple Arithmetic*** was held up behind the leaders on his chasing debut at Sandown and despite running a decent race to finish third behind Certainly Strong and Captain Khedive, the tactics did not help his cause. More use is likely to be made of Kim Bailey's *smart* novice and he is fancied to open his account over fences.

Callisoe Bay and Falmouth Bay are far from certain to be suited by the going and Hebridean and Harwell Lad look bigger dangers. Hebridean would have won but for falling at the last at Bangor recently, and will go well if he brushes up his jumping. Harwell Lad has no such problems with his fencing, and deserves this step up in class after winning all four of his starts this season.

Nemuro, a useful hurdler, made a winning debut over fences at Exeter, but would probably prefer a faster surface.

RICHARD EVANS



Dunwoody: top rides

BIG RACE LINE-UP

2.20 KING GEORGE VI TRIPLEPRINT CHASE — C4
(Grade I: £63,835: 3m) (10 runners)

401 U6-P030 **ALGAN** 23 (CD,S) (Marquesa de Moratalla) F Doumen (Fr) 7-11-10 .... P Chevalier 85
(Red, light green cap)

402 FU3F6-1 **BARTON BANK** 69 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 9-11-10 .... A Maguire 96
(Emerald green, white stars, emerald green cap, white star)

403 P2300/1- **BOOK OF MUSIC** 374 (G) (Mr; D Lousada) N Bailey 7-11-10 — NON-RUNNER —
(Yellow purple stripe, purple and yellow hooped sleeves and cap)

404 111-10F **COULTON** 35 (F,G,S) (M St Quinton) O Sherwood 8-11-10 .... J Osborne 88
(Pink and yellow diamonds, yellow sleeves and cap)

405 11U21-1 **DUBLIN FLYER** 45 (C,D,G,S) (J Suman) T Forster 9-11-10 .... B Powell 91
(Green, yellow sleeves, white cap)

406 00-312P **EGYPT MILL PRINCE** 25 (BF,F,G,S) (S Webb) Mrs J Pitman 9-11-10 W Marston 77
(White, red seams and sleeves)

407 1241-21 **MERRY GALE** 31 (G,S) (H Stanley) J Draper (Ire) 7-11-10 .... G Bradley 90
(White yellow diamonds yellow sleeves, quartered cap)

408 4163-62 **MONSIEUR LE CURE** 17 (CD,G,S) (N Brown) J Edwards 9-11-10 .... J F Titley 80
(Orange, black and white hooped cap)

409 11UF-11 **ONE MAN** 17 (D,F,G,S) (J Hales) G Richards 7-11-10 .... R Dunwoody (5)
(Yellow, red star, yellow sleeves, white armlets, yellow cap with red star)

410 25-23F3 **VAL D'ALENE** 23 (CD,G,S) (M de Moniori) F Doumen (Fr) 8-11-10 .... A Kondrat 95
(Blue and yellow hoops, blue sleeves, black cap)

411 5/23112- **BRIEF GALE** 249 (C,G,S) (Mrs C Zeiler-Wells) J Gifford 8-11-5 .... — P Hide 94
(Royal blue, large red spots, royal blue sleeves with red spots, red cap)

BETTING: 9-4 One Man, 3-1 Barton Bank, 7-2 Merry Gale, 8-1 Dublin Flyer, Val D'Alene, 10-1 Algan, 16-1 Monsieur Le Cure, 20-1 Brief Gale, 25-1 Coulton, 40-1 Egypt Mill Prince.

1994: ALGAN 6-11-10 P Chevalier (16-1) F Doumen (Fr) 9 ran

COMPREHENSIVE FORM GUIDE TO THE TEN CONTENDERS

ALGAN
Dec 3, Auteuil, very soft, see Val D'Alene.
Nov 11, Auteuil, very soft (9-13) 6½l 3rd to Al Capone II (11-0) with Val D'Alene (10-12) a taller (3m 3f 110yd, ch, £71,856, 9 ran)
Mar 16, Cheltenham, soft, see Merry Gale.
Feb 25, Kempton, heavy see Val D'Alene.

BARTON BANK
Oct 28, Wetherby, good to firm (11-2) beat Young Hustler (11-10) 7l (3m 110yd, gd II ch, £20,581, 3 ran).
Apr 6, Aintree, good see Merry Gale.
Mar 16, Cheltenham, soft see Merry Gale.

COULTON
Nov 21, Huntingdon, good (11-10) close 3rd when last fence taller behind Travado (11-6) (2m 4f 110yd, gd II ch, £15,775, 7 ran).
Nov 11, Cheltenham, good, see Dublin Flyer.
Oct 22, Wincanton, firm, (11-10) beat Amtrak Express (10-9) 6l (2m 5l, gd II lim hcap ch, £17,151, 3 ran).

DUBLIN FLYER
Nov 11, Cheltenham, good (11-8) beat Egypt Mill Prince (10-9) ¾l with Coulton (12-0) 23½l 7th (2m 4l 110yd, gd III hcap ch, £38,502, 12 ran)
Apr 6, Aintree, good, (12-0) beat Toureen Prince (10-0) 9l (2m 6l, hcap ch, £24,955, 26 ran).
Mar 15, Cheltenham, soft (11-3) 1l 2nd to Kadi (10-4) (2m 4f 110yd, hcap ch, £25,928, 12 ran).

EGYPT MILL PRINCE
Dec 1, Sandown, good (10-11) 11l 2nd to Lonesome Glory (10-0) (2m 4f 110yd, hcap ch, £6,852, 4 ran)
Nov 11, Cheltenham, good: see Dublin Flyer.
Oct 28, Ascot, good to firm; (11-8) beat Big Matt (10-7) 1l (2m, hcap ch, £16,856, 8 ran).

MERRY GALE
Nov 25, Punchestown, yielding; (12-0) beat King Of The Gales (11-8) 10l (2m 4f, gd I ch, £22,750, 7 ran).
Nov 16, Tipperary, good (12-0) 6l 2nd to Klavon Davis (12-0) (2m, gd III ch, £8,850, 4 ran)
Apr 6, Aintree, good, (11-9) beat Mantomick (11-0) 15l with Monsieur Le Cure (11-9) 2½l 3rd and Barton Bank (11-5) tailed off 6th (3m 1f, gd II ch, £31,558, 6 ran)
Mar 16, Cheltenham, soft: (12-0) 34l 4th to Master Oats (12-0) with Monsieur Le Cure (12-0) 13l 6th, Barton Bank (12-0) disputing 2nd when fell 15th, Algan (12-0) ridden when unseated rider 13th and Val D'Alene (12-0) unseated rider 6th (3m 2f 110yd, gd I ch, £122,540, 15 ran)

MONSIEUR LE CURE
Dec 9, Haydock, good: see One Man.
Nov 25, Newbury, soft: (11-9) 50l 6th to Couldnt Be Better (10-8) (3m 2f 110yd, gd III hcap ch, £48,989, 11 ran).
Apr 6, Aintree, good see Merry Gale.
Mar 16, Cheltenham, soft: see Merry Gale.

ONE MAN
Dec 9, Haydock, good, (11-2) beat Monsieur Le Cure (11-6) 11l (3m, ch, £10,114, 5 ran).
Nov 11, Ayr, good: (10-12) beat Jodami (12-0) 7l (3m 1f, lim hcap ch, £10,309, 7 ran).
Feb 25, Kempton, heavy: see Val D'Alene.

VAL D'ALENE
Dec 3, Auteuil, very soft: (10-12) 7½l 3rd to As Des Carres (10-0) with Algan (10-0) 3½l 7th (2m 6f, Ch, £59,880, 12 ran)
Nov 11, Auteuil, very soft, see Algan.
Mar 16, Cheltenham, soft see Merry Gale.
Feb 25, Kempton, heavy (11-2) beat Southolt (10-2) 20l with Algan (11-10) tailed off when unseated rider last, remounted to finish 5th, and One Man (10-12) prominent when fell 12th (3m, gd III hcap ch, £39,700, 9 ran)

BRIEF GALE
Apr 21, Aintree, good (11-9) 11l 2nd to Unguided Missile (12-0) (3m 1f, Nov ch, £6,758, 6 ran).
Mar 15, Cheltenham, soft, (10-13) beat Harcon (11-4) 9l (3m 1f, gd I nov ch, £49,163, 13 ran).
Feb 25, Kempton, heavy, (10-12) beat Kadi (11-3) 4½l (2m 4l 110yd, gd II nov ch, £11,129, 7 ran).
Mar 16, 1994, Cheltenham, good to soft: (11-2) 7l 3rd to Danoli (11-7) (2m 5f, gd I nov hdle, £39,504, 23 ran).

Selection: VAL D'ALENE

REST OF KEMPTON'S BOXING DAY CARD

THUNDERER

12.45 River North	2.20 Val D'Alene
1.15 Hill Of Tullow	2.50 Harwell Lad
1.45 Fourth In Line	3.20 **SESAME SEED** (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.20 **ONE MAN.**

GOING: SOFT (6.30AM INSPECTION) SIS

12.45 BONUSPOST NOVICES HURDLE — C4
(£7,003: 2m) (8 runners)

101 F422-12 **SHANKAR** 18 (D,BF,S) (International Plywood Plc) D Nicholson 4-11-10 .... A Maguire (5)
102 40- **BRAZIL ON RUST** 311 (Mrs C Waterer) P Webber 4 11 5 .... B Powell —
103 **DESERT GREEN** 24F (Mrs P Juberi) R Hannon 6-11-5 .... R Hughes —
104 R-5P **DONTFORGET INSIGHT** 21 (T Heath) C Brooks 4-11-5 .... G Bradley 57
105 00-1 **IGGINS** 21 (D,S) (Pell-mell Partners) J Gifford 5-11-5 .... P Hide 83
106 3 **INDEFENCE** 17 (Under Lidh Mrs J Pitman 4-11-5 .... W Marston 75
107 5-112 **MASTER BEVELED** 17 (D G S) (Mr E Williams) P Evans 5-11-5 .... J Osborne 85
108 **RIVER NORTH** 248F (P Savill) Lady Herries 5-11-5 .... R Dunwoody —

BETTING: 2-1 River North, 3-1 Shankar, 5-1 Iggins, Master Beveled, 8-1 Indefence, Desert Green, 33-1 others

1994: WHO IS EQUINAME 4-11-0 M A Fitzgerald (20-1) N Henderson 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

SHANKAR 2l 2nd of 13 to Zephyrus in novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good) DESERT GREEN 1½l 2nd of 6 to Star Of Zalzal in conditions race at Bath (1m good to firm) IGGINS beat Welsh Mill ¾l in 19-runner novice hurdle at Huntingdon (3m 110yd good to soft) with DONTFORGET INSIGHT pulled up 2 out INDEFENCE 7½l 3rd of 14 to Crown Equerry in novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, good) MASTER BEVELED 5l 2nd of 13 to Mack The Knife in novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, good) RIVER NORTH best effort beat Morgan 2½l in group I Arqana Poland at Gelsenkirchen-Horst (1m 4f, good) August 1994.
Selection: SHANKAR

1.15 TRIPLEPRINT FELTHAM NOVICES CHASE — C4
(Grade I: £22,950: 3m) (9 runners)

201 21-3F2 **EXECUTIVE OPTIONS** 10 (F) (J McCarthy) J Dusaily (Ire) 6-11-7 .... — (3)
202 26/1- **FEEL THE POWER** 396 (S) (M Booth) N Bailey 7-11-7 .... J Osborne —
203 1F11-11 **HILL OF TULLOW** 24 (D,F,G,S) (Lady Harris) D Nicholson 6-11-7 .... A Maguire (5)
204 640-132 **LE MERLLE** 18 (F) (N Marchelli) A James 6-11-7 .... W Marston 85
205 1334-11 **MAJOR SUMMIT** 12 (C,S) (A Wellen) J Gifford 6-11-7 .... P Hide 96
206 PP-2F1 **MASTER ORCHESTRA** 21 (D,S) (Hatchet Pnrs) Miss H Knight 6-11-7 .... J F Titley 86
207 6-111 **MR MULLIGAN** 32 (D,F,G) (M Worcester) N Chance 7-11-7 .... M A Fitzgerald 82
208 2-80051 **SO FAR BOLD** 66 (B,D,S) (J Feyerick) F Doumen (Fr) 5-11-7 .... P Chevalier —
209 436-621 **SOLO GENT** 35 (F,G) (A King) A Jones 6-11-7 .... B Powell 87

BETTING: 7-4 Hill Of Tullow, 11-4 So Far Bold, 9-2 Major Summit, 8-1 Executive Options, Mr Mulligan 10-1 Feel The Power, 14-1 Master Orchestra, 33-1 others

1994: BROWNHALL 6-11-7 A Maguire (5-1) D Nicholson 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

EXECUTIVE OPTIONS 15l 2nd of 12 to Ventana Canyon in novice chase at Navan (2m 4f, good) FEEL THE POWER beat Prime Of Life 3½l in 14-runner novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, good to soft) last season. HILL OF TULLOW beat Cambrov 2½l in chase at Sandown (3m 110yd, good). LE MERLLE 2½l 2nd of 4 to Celtic Town in novice chase at Doncaster (5m good to firm) MAJOR SUMMIT beat Call It A Day 3l in novice chase at Towcester (2m 6l, soft) MASTER ORCHESTRA beat Sedge Warbler 3½l in maiden chase at Huntingdon (3m, good to soft). MR MULLIGAN beat Arctic Red distance in novice chase at Bangor (3m 110yd, good). SO FAR BOLD beat Blanville 2l in handicap chase at Auteuil (2m 7f 110yd soft)
Selection: MAJOR SUMMIT

1.45 BONUSSPRINT HANDICAP HURDLE — C4
(£7,133: 2m) (16 runners)

301 31-2130 **NON VINTAGE** 10 (D,G,S) (A Mann) M Chapman 4-11-10 .... B Powell (5)
302 31FP-11 **CHERYL'S LAD** 18 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs E Barnes) N Henderson 5-11-10 .... M A Fitzgerald (5)
303 2/530-1 **SOHRAB** 15 (D,S) (Mrs J Richards) M Pipe 7-11-9 .... J Osborne 89
304 10-350F **SHOOFK** 10 (S) (S Devine) S Dow 4-11-8 .... R Dunwoody 83
305 1121-40 **FOURTH IN LINE** 18 (D,G,S) (Mrs G Jenkinson) J Edwards 7-11-6 .... J F Titley 85
306 14P3-06 **KINGSFOLD PET** 24 (D,G,S) (G Nye) M Haynes 6-11-5 .... D Skyrme 86
307 6-23431 **BOOKCASE** 13 (D,F,G) (Adept Ltd) D Elsworth 8-11-4 .... A Procter (3) 90
308 P-22232 **TEEN JAY** 41 (D,F,G,S) (Gemini Associates) R Stronge 5-11-4 .... R Stronge 83
309 6120-50 **AMANCIO** 39 (D,S) (P Locke) G Harwood 4-11-4 .... M Perrett 87
310 29/0-305 **ALBEMINE** 10 (D,BF,F) (G Ward) Mrs J Cecil 6-11-0 .... T Kent 92
311 216-P4 **DINO MALTA** 18 (D,S) (Lady Harris) D Nicholson 4-11-0 .... A Maguire 83
312 11-1 ***GROOVING*** 28 (D,G,S) (Mr; T Brown) J Gifford 6-11-0 .... P Hide 90
313 10-3502 **KEEP ME IN MIND** 13 (D F,S) (P Tory) N Mulholl 6-10-10 .... R Hughes 80
314 12102-3 **NAMASTE** 28 (D,G,S) (J Catherson) R Hoad 7-10-9 .... G Bradley 89
315 0C/31-00 **SECRETARY OF STATE** 13 (D,G) (W Ponsonby) D Arbuthnot 9-10-8 .... — 74
316 3300-02 **PYRAMIS PRINCE** 19 (D,S) (J Whyte) J White 5-10-8 .... D Flenegan (7) 86

Long handicap: Secretary Of State 9-8 Pyramis Prince 9-7

BETTING: 7-2 Cheryl's Lad 4-1 Grooving, 8-1 Bookcase, Sohrab 10-1 Keep Me In Mind, Non Vintage, 12-1 Shoofk, Fourth In Line 14-1 Teen Jay, 16-1 others.

1994: TRYING AGAIN 6-10-0 J Osborne (10-1) D Gandolfo 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

NON VINTAGE 1l 3rd of 7 to Padre Mio in grade II Bellway Homes Eighteen Fifty Hurdle at Newcastle (2m good) penultimate start CHERYL'S LAD beat Morstock 8l in 10-runner handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good) with DINO MALTA (11lb better off) 1¼l 4th and FOURTH IN LINE (8lb better off) 30l 6th BOOKCASE beat KEEP ME IN MIND (11lb better off) head in 10-runner handicap hurdle at Exeter (3m 2f, good) with SECRETARY OF STATE (2lb worse off) 40l 7th Previously shorthead and 3½l 3rd of 22 to Chief's Song in handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd good) with ALBEMINE (4lb better off) 11½l 7th and KEEP ME IN MIND (5lb better off) 11l 13th TEEN JAY best recent effort neck 2nd of 9 to Stoney Valley in handicap hurdle at Stratford (2m 110yd, good) ALBEMINE 5½l 5th of 17 to Celtside in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, good) GROOVING beat Pamplito 8l in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f, soft) with NAMASTE (11lb better off) 5½l 3rd PYRAMIS PRINCE 7l 2nd of 8 to Viceroy Ruler in handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 4f, good)
Selection: CHERYL'S LAD (nap)

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 11-3143 **GOOD TIMES** 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell P — pulled up U — unseated rider B — brought down S — slipped up R — refused O — disqualified) Horse's name. Days since last outing. F-if flat. (B — blinkers, V — visor H — hood E — Eyeshield. C — course winner D — distance winner CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race) Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

2.20 KING GEORGE VI TRIPLEPRINT CHASE — C4
(Grade I: £63,835: 3m) (11 runners)

RUNNERS AND RIDERS — SEE ABOVE

2.50 BONUSPHOTO WAYWARD LAD NOVICES CHASE — C4
(£14,135: 2m 4f 110yd) (9 runners)

501 250-P13 **CALLISOE BAY** 19 (BF,G,S) (R Waters) O Sherwood 6-11-7 .... J Osborne 96
502 5/410P-1 **FALMOUTH BAY** 33 (G,S) (J Morton) S Sherwood 6-11-7 .... G Bradley 76
503 1111 **HARWELL LAD** 25 (F,G,S) (H Wellcfead) R Alner 6-11-7 .... Mr R Nuttall 84
504 64P-01F **HEBRIDEAN** 13 (D,BF,G,S) (P Deal) D Nicholson 8-11-7 .... A Maguire (5)
505 14-2601 **NEMURO** 13 (F,G) (Turf City Racing) D Elsworth 7-11-7 .... P Holley 88
506 F44/P-1U **TOTHEWOODS** 24 (G,S) (Mrs M Scott) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-7 .... M A Fitzgerald 75
507 0633-2R **MR PICKPOCKET** 13 (S) (R Sayer) Miss H Knight 7-11-3 .... J F Titley 79
508 4/0/25-4 **POORS WOOD** 41 (G,S) (A Wellen) J Gifford 8-11-3 .... P Hide 53
509 14302-3 **SIMPLE ARITHMETIC** 24 (S) (Mrs M Morley) K Bailey 7-11-3 .... R Dunwoody 87

BETTING: 9-4 Callisoe Bay, 4-1 Hebridean, 5-1 Simple Arithmetic, 6-1 Harwell Lad, 8-1 Falmouth Bay, 10-1 Mr Pickpocket, Nemuro, 12-1 others.

1994: HIGH BARON 7-11-4 R Dunwoody (10-11 fav) R Alner 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

CALLISOE BAY beat Hawkfield 9l in 4-runner novice chase at Uttoxeter (2m, good) penultimate start. FALMOUTH BAY beat MR PICKPOCKET 7¼l in 12-runner novice chase at Taunton (3m 3f, good) HARWELL LAD beat Silverino 4l in 15-runner handicap chase at Exeter (3m 7f 110yd, good to soft) HEBRIDEAN beat King Lucifer 29½l in 8-runner novice chase at Worcester (2m 4f 110yd, soft) penultimate start. NEMURO beat Trying Again 5l in novice chase at Exeter (2m 2f, good) with MR PICKPOCKET clear when carried out 4 out. TOTHEWOODS beat Persian Tactics 10l in novice chase at Haydock (2m, good) penultimate start. POORS WOOD 41l 4th to Inchcailloch in novice chase here (2m, good) SIMPLE ARITHMETIC 12l 3rd of 5 to Certainly Strong in grade II Westminster Taxi Insurance Henry VIII Novices' Chase at Sandown (2m, good) with TOTHEWOODS 3rd and beaten when unseated rider 2 out.
Selection: NEMURO.

3.20 BONUSFILM HANDICAP HURDLE
(£7,328: 2m 5f) (13 runners)

601 2-13134 **STRAWBERRY ANGEL** 10 (F,S) (Mrs W Jeffords) C Brooks 4-12-0 Blythe Miller 87
602 303-F10 **BELL STAFFBOY** 18 (F,G) (L Bell & Son Ltd) C Broad 6-11-10 W Marston 97
603 P0/0012- **PRAGADA** 287 (B,D G,S) (Mrs M Mcalonen) R Rowe 12-11-7 .... D O'Sullivan 92
604 02-1112 **FATHER SKY** 25 (D,F) (K Kornfeld) O Sherwood 4-11-6 .... J Osborne (5)
605 4/5/61-0 **SABAKI RIVER** 18 (F,G,S) (Mrs B Taylor) Mrs J Retter 11-11-2 R Dunwoody 93
606 310/21 **SESAME SEED** 17 (G,S) (R Tooth) Mrs J Cecil 7-10-13 .... T Kent 94
607 4134-43 **LUCKY BLUE** 13 (G,S) (F Newman) N Thomson 8-10-9 .... J F Titley 97
608 P614-64 **JEASSU** 10 (CD,F,G,S) (Up and Runnem Pnrs) A J Wilson 12-10-8 G Bradley 98
609 2P2-P51 **PLUNDER BAY** 20 (S) (E & W Robins) N Henderson 4-10-5 .... M A Fitzgerald 95
610 1144-50 **MUNTAR** 10 (S) (The One Over Eight Partnership) G Harwood 4-10-5 M Perrett 94
611 00/511-F **DESMOND GOLD** 29 (G,S) (J Scanlon & J Toner) Mrs D Haine 7-10-1 A Maguire 90
612 23/P10- **ANGELO'S DOUBLE** 271 (S) (J Harwood) R Buckler 7-10-0 .... B Powell 93
613 P24-116 **GINGER JIM** 26 (D,F) (Mrs G Webster) P Hedger 4-10-0 .... M Clinton (7) 85

Long handicap: Ginger Jim 9-13

BETTING: 9-4 Father Sky, 4-1 Sesame Seed, 6-1 Bell Staffboy, Plunder Bay, 10-1 Pragada, 12-1 Strawberry Angel, 14-1 others.

1994: NICK THE BEAK 5-10-5 J Osborne (3-1) J Upson 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

STRAWBERRY ANGEL 17¾l 4th of 8 to Pridwell in hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good). BELL STAFFBOY beat Celibate 1l in 5-runner handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 4l 110yd, good) penultimate start FATHER SKY 15l 2nd of 5 to See More Business in grade II Crownpap Winter Novices' Hurdle at Sandown (3m 6l good) SESAME SEED beat Top Cees 4l in handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4l, good). LUCKY BLUE head and 11l 3rd of 10 to Bookcase in handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, good) PLUNDER BAY beat Twice A Night head in handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m 4l 110yd, good to soft) GINGER JIM beat Hurricane Blake 2½l in 6-runner conditional jockeys handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to firm) penultimate start.
Selection: SESAME SEED

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Lady Herries	4	8	50.0	W Marston	5	14	35.7
F Doumen	4	12	33.3	P Hide	7	32	21.9
J Edwards	4	14	28.6	R Dunwoody	22	104	21.2
T Forster	4	14	28.6	M A Fitzgerald	13	62	21.0
R Alner	5	18	27.8	J Osborne	25	126	19.8
N Henderson	17	65	26.2	A Maguire	12	82	14.6

Blinkered first time

HEREFORD: 1.35 Flying Imp 3.05 Ballydougan MARKET RASEN: 12.25 Salutation 2.00 Hillwalk 3.35 Scottish Wedding NEWTON ABBOT: 12.50 Tragic Hero 1.50 Damas 2.30 Brambletuft Buck, Hillwalk. WETHERBY: 3.20 Valley Garden WINCANTON: 3.15 Carnival Lad

Doumen has faith in his raiders

BY OUR RACING STAFF



Doumen: has found Kempton a happy hunting ground

FRANÇOIS DOUMEN considers the bookmakers have again underestimated the French challenge for the King George VI Tripleprint Chase at Kempton.

"If they were trained in England my horses would be half those odds," claims the trainer, referring to some of the more extragavant prices quoted about Algan and Val D'Alene for the Kempton showpiece.

Doumen, who says he has not the slightest interest in betting on French racing, has landed some notable gambling coups in the King George since he brought the unconsidered outsider Nupsala to Kempton in 1987.

"I backed him at 50-1 before that race, and he won it by 15 lengths," he said. "And I could not believe that I was able to get 16-1 about The Fellow when he won it first time." And Algan last year? "Yes, of course. I was on at 25-1, or was it only 20-1?"

Needless to say he has backed both his pair at healthy prices for the 1995 King George. Although admitting that the race looks especially strong, Doumen feels remote enough in his Lamorlaye yard not to be harried by the big Anglo-Irish reputations lined up against Algan and Val D'Alene.

"I am sitting here in France, and I read in my English racing papers good news about one rival, and bad news about another. I don't worry too much either way."

And Doumen has little to worry about, his string having accrued well over £1.5 million in prize-money in 1995, including a blitz of Flat and jumping winners just before the Parisian racing season closed down two weeks ago.

All this despite the deaths of his stable stars, Ucello and Ubu III, and the retirement of dual King George winner The Fellow to the Marquesa de Moratalla's stud near St Albans.

As for Algan and Val D'Alene, the trainer says: "They have been running in the top French jumping races this season. At home I have just been keeping them warmed up. They are both very fit."

Doumen is not prepared to split the two, but Ian Williams, his assistant, does confess to a slight preference. "Last year, I told Lord Oaksey I preferred The Fellow to the inexperienced Algan. That *opinion was then broadcast* on television before the race, so I felt a bit embarrassed.

"This time, I do think Algan may be the one, he really is spot on. We just keep hoping for some more rain," said Williams, an integral cog in the Doumen team since he left Jenny Pitman's yard four years ago.

Doumen has also targetted So Far Bold at Kempton's Feltham Novices' Chase and the trainer is not shy about advancing the horse's claims.

"He is a quality horse, who recently won the same good race at Auteuil that Val D'Alene had won en route to his success in the Racing Post Chase," he said.

"We had an expensive time bringing him over for the abandoned Lingfield meeting recently but Josh Gifford helped tremendously by letting us school him over English fences at Findon."

The role of the Sunbury racecourse in the Doumen success story can be gauged from the fact that the family Jack Russell is called Kempton. And even Kempton, the dog, seems lucky for Doumen. A year ago, the trainer and his wife, Elizabeth, mislaid Kempton 50 miles from the stable only to recover the dog.

The Lamorlaye team will be hoping that their luck holds good again as Doumen attempts to plunder a fifth King George VI Chase.

Kempton threatened as weather worsens

AN ICY weather forecast has forced Kempton to call an inspection at 6.30 this morning to determine whether the King George VI Tripleprint Chase meeting can go ahead.

"The plan is that, in view of the forecast of temperatures of minus six degrees celcius tonight, there will be a precautionary inspection at 6.30am on Boxing Day," Michael Webster, the clerk of the course said. "The inspection is timed so that the result can go out on the first racing bulletin on Radio 5 Live at 6.55. The track is perfectly raceable — the going is still soft — the only change is in the weather forecast." If today's meeting is lost, the King George will be switched to tomorrow's Kempton card. If that is also called off, the race will be run at Sandown Park on January 6.

Two of the ten scheduled meetings — Ayr and Sedgefield — have already been lost because of the cold snap. The course executive at Sedgefield had not planned to hold an inspection, but clerk of the course John Cleverly said yesterday: "We are frozen solid here. With another frost forecast for tonight, there is no point in keeping everyone hanging around."

Six other meetings are holding inspections this morning, as a result of heavy frosts forecast throughout the country. Officials at Wetherby are least optimistic, a spokeswoman yesterday saying: "The forecast is for a frost of minus four degrees, so prospects are not good."

The lone exception is Newton Abbot, which was passed fit yesterday afternoon. With waterlogging rather than frost posing the greatest threat to the fixture, Newton Abbot's clerk of the course, Michael Trickey, yesterday declared the track fit and does not plan to inspect again. However, one obstacle from both the chase and hurdle courses will have to be omitted.

"Now we have to pray that the frost doesn't get us. There is a bit of frost forecast, but it should be bright and sunny in the morning, so we don't plan to inspect at this stage," Trickey said.

هدايا من الأهل

Nicholls has sights set on valuable targets

BY OUR RACING STAFF

PAUL NICHOLLS, the West Country trainer, reached a notable milestone when Coolree landed the Trafalgar Novices Handicap Chase at Southwell last Tuesday. The success was his thirtieth of the season, beating his previous best score established two seasons ago.

After a dip in his fortunes last term when his yard in Ditcheat, near Shepton Mallett, was afflicted by virus, Nicholls is on the rise again. As a jockey Nicholls experienced big-race triumphs in the Hennessy Gold Cups both at Newbury and Leopardstown.

And since graduating to the training ranks he has produced ample evidence that he can eventually match those feats in his new profession. A crop of talented novices, led by the unbeaten See More Business, have provided the highlights of the early campaign and will carry stable hopes into the new year, preferably all the way to Cheltenham.

"It's nice to be doing so well at this stage of the season," he says. "This time four years ago I'd not had a winner but all the time I've been working on attracting new owners, a better class of horse and establishing a good team.

"We put a new gallop in this summer as well but there's not just been one thing that has made the difference. The horses are fit and healthy and that can help even in the moderate horses.

"Of course there is Tony McCoy as well. I used Graham Bradley two years ago and Richard Dunwoody last year but they had other commitments and this arrangement has worked very well. Tony has been able to ride the majority of the horses. He's very talented, not just at riding but schooling as well."

The association, which has helped propel McCoy towards a first jockeys' title, has already unearthed a number of Cheltenham Festival contenders. See More Business, whose name conjures memories of Nicholls's previous top novice chaser — the ill-fated See More Indians — is living up to his predecessor with three impressive wins over hurdles this season.

Call Equiname, winner of three of his five starts, most recently at Ascot, and Captain



Nicholls: best season

Khedive, another three-time winner, have shone too while his smart staying chaser, Deep Bramble, is poised to return in February.

"See More Business is the best horse I've had to date. It's almost poetic justice to have another good horse like him after losing See More Indians," Nicholls adds.

"People keep telling me to enter him in the Champion Hurdle but he won't be and neither will Call Equiname.

"The problem with Call Equiname is that he suffers from sore shins. He could hardly walk in his box on Saturday night but is fine now. It's a sign of immaturity which he will get over.

"Deep Bramble has had a break for the first time in two to three years. He was very lame after he was pulled up in the Gold Cup and I still don't know why. He helped make up for a disappointing season last term and on the two occasions he was right he won. He's been doing some very good work since he came back into training.

"His owners may want me to enter him in the Gold Cup but the Grand National is his target and the plan is to give him two runs in the Agfa Diamond Chase at Sandown and Greenalls at Haydock."

Captain Khedive is fancied in the Harry Brown Memorial Challenge Cup at Wolverhampton today. Other Nicholls runners with live chances are Vicompt De Valmont, who runs in tomorrow's Coral Welsh National at Chepstow, and Court Melody, who contests the Ladbroke Gold Cup at Newbury on Saturday.

Morceli entered twice on Wetherby card

MORCELI has been declared for two races at Wetherby today by his trainer, Howard Johnson. Johnson was unable to contact the gelding's owner, Catherine Corbett, by Friday's declaration stage and was left in the dark as to whether she wished to run the grey in the Supermaster or Rowland Meyrick Handicap Chase. The action risks a fine, but Johnson hopes the local stewards will understand his position.

Johnson's wife, Sue, said: "Mrs Corbett was on holiday in Spain and not due back until it was too late. We left messages, but noboby realised that Boxing Day declarations had to be made early and we did not know what else to do.

"Mrs Corbett is an owner who very much likes to be involved in the decisions about her horses. We respect what she says and did not want to disappoint her by choosing the wrong race."

Morceli, returning to fences after falling at Ascot and disappointing in the Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle, will face Jodami if he contests the Rowland Meyrick, in which he would be ridden by Paul Carberry. If he runs in the Supermaster he would be ridden by Lorcan Wyer.

Morceli's defection from the Rowland Meyrick, run over an extended three miles, would make him the third of the declarations likely to miss the race. One Man, trained by Gordon Richards, and Monsieur Le Cure, trained by John Edwards, have the King George VI Tripleprint Chase at Kempton Park as their first preference.

TRAINERS' PREFERENCES

The following is a list of horses doubly declared on Boxing Day. They will run at their second preference meeting only if the first preference is abandoned. A horse's second preference is denoted on the racecard.

Almamzar Market Rasen 3.35; Belaat Market Rasen 12.55; Barnstormer Huntingdon 12.30; Blackpatch Hill Wetherby 1.50; Braida Boy Huntingdon 1.30; Cavalero Newton Abbot 3.35; Cawarra Boy Hereford 2.35; Celtic Emerald Hereford 2.35; Celtic Reg Newton Abbot 3.35; Ela Man Howa Wetherby 3.20; Exclusion Market Rasen 12.25; Falmouth Bay Kempton 2.50; Five To Seven Wetherby 2.50; Fourth In Line Kempton 1.45; Frontager Wincanton 3.15; Gayton Run Huntingdon 12.30; Hillwalk Market Rasen 2.00; I'm Toby Market Rasen 3.05; Iffeee Market Rasen 2.50; Ivy House Market Rasen 12.55; Lasata Wolverhampton 2.00; Let's Get Lost Wolverhampton 3.40; Megamunch Newton Abbot 3.35; Milo Boy Market Rasen 1.25; Monsieur Le Cure Kempton 2.20; Native Field Market Rasen 2.30; Newhall Prince Wolverhampton 2.00; No Near Miss Newton Abbot 1.50; One Man Kempton 2.20; Owens Quest Wetherby 3.20; Pacific Power Market Rasen 3.35; Pearl's Choice Newton Abbot 1.20; Prize Match Newton Abbot 1.20; Rafter-J Market Rasen 12.25; Rumi Market Rasen 1.25; Sassiver Market Rasen 2.30; Sesame Seed Kempton 3.20; Solo Gent Kempton 1.15; Sovereign Niche Newton Abbot 3.05; Sprowston Boy Market Rasen 2.00; Trying Again Hereford 2.05.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

HUNTINGDON: Trainers: K Bailey, 14 winners from 43 runners, 32.6%; D Gandolfo, 9 from 29, 31.0%; D Nicholson, 15 from 52, 28.8%. Jockeys: A Dicken, 4 winners from 14 rides, 28.6%; D Gallagher, 7 from 37, 18.9%; J Ryan, 7 from 39, 17.9%.

MARKET RASEN: Trainers: P Kelleway, 3 winners from 5 runners, 60.0%; A Turnell, 3 from 8, 37.5%; M H Easterby, 22 from 77, 28.6%. Jockeys: Mr C Bonner, 3 winners from 8 rides, 37.5%; A Roche, 3 from 10, 30.0%; L O'Hara, 6 from 36, 16.7%.

NEWTON ABBOT: Trainers: J Tuck, 3 winners from 6 runners, 50.0%; J Old, 7 from 20, 35.0%; R O'Sullivan, 9 from 26, 34.6%; D Elsworth, 3 from 9, 33.3%. Jockeys: G Tormey, 4 winners from 15 rides, 26.7%; D Bridgwater, 20 from 78, 25.6%; Peter Hobbs, 25 from 107, 23.4%.

WETHERBY: Trainers: Mrs M Reveley, 44 from 150, 29.3%; N Twiston-Davies, 5 from 18, 27.8%; H Johnson, 14 from 69, 20.3%. Jockeys: E Callaghan, 5 from 12, 41.7%; L Wyer, 35 from 151, 23.2%; M Dwyer, 18 from 156, 11.5%.

WINCANTON: Trainers: Mrs J Pitman, 22 winners from 69 runners, 31.9%; M Pipe, 35 from 126, 27.8%; R Alner, 11 from 52, 21.2%; Miss H Knight, 5 from 25, 20.0%; N Twiston-Davies, 10 from 51, 19.6%; D Gandolfo, 6 from 34, 17.6%. Jockeys: R Farrant, 5 winners from 41 rides, 12.2%; S McNeil, 8 from 67, 11.9%.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Trainers: O Sherwood, 5 winners from 12 runners, 41.7%; J Edwards, 4 from 19, 21.1%; M Pipe, 6 from 30, 20.0%. Only qualifiers. Jockeys: no qualifiers.

HUNTINGDON

THUNDERER

12.30 Hatcham Boy. 1.00 Second Call. 1.30 Alaskan Heir. 2.00 Maneree. 2.30 Ask Me Kindly. 3.00 *Newhall Prince.* 3.30 *The Captain's Wish.*

GOING: SOFT (7.30AM INSPECTION)

12.30 FESTIVE SPIRIT NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £1,891: 3m 2f) (13 runners)

1 0-1 MERILENA 35 (C,F) G Hubbard 5-11-0 K Gaule (3)
2 5P BARNSTORMER 45 (G) E Elliott 9-10-12 T Eley
3 4-64 CAMP BANK 39 N Twiston-Davies 5-10-12 D Walsh (5)
4 0P/ CAPITAIN 241P A Jones 6-10-12 S Curran (3)
5 5P DODGEM 24 M Wilkinson 7-10-12 M Richards
6 PP5- GAYTON RUN 232 S Campion 6-10-12 P Midgley (3)
7 2-0F HATCHAM BOY 39 D Nicholson 5-10-12 R Massey (5)
8 056 JUST ALBERT 24 Mrs J Pitman 5-10-12 T Grantham
9 -050 KING'S COURTIER 24 S Mellor 6-10-12 J Ryan
10 0-2 SHALLOW RIVER 33 R Collins 4-10-12 D Ryan (7)
11 0/0 STARLIGHT FOOL 32 K Bailey 6-10-12 J R Kavanagh
12 P0-5 ARDENT LOVE 24 O Brennan 6-10-7 S O'Donnell (7)

7-2 Merilena, 4-1 Shallow River, Camp Bank, 5-1 Hatcham Boy, 10-1 others.

1.00 CHRISTMAS TIDE NOVICES CHASE (£3,225: 2m 4f 110yd) (12)

1 0P-1 FALMOUTH BAY 33 (G,S) S Sherwood 6-11-7 2nd pref
2 -621 SOLO GENT 35 (CD,F,G) A Jones 6-11-7 2nd pref
3 5421 VICOSA 36 (F,S) R Alner 6-11-7 P Carey (5)
4 50P- BALAAT 279 (F) M Chapman 7-11-0 2nd pref
5 40/ I'M TOBY 661 (G) A Foster 8-11-0 2nd pref
6 2-P0 MAESTRO PAUL 24 (F,G,S) J Gifford 9-11-0 Mr P O'Keeffe (7)
7 5642 NAGOBELIA 19 (F,G,S) J Pearce 7-11-0 J McLaughlin
8 6-50 RIVER ISLAND 17 (S) J Old 7-11-0 T Grantham
9 3U54 STRONG JOHN 14 (F,G) G Hubbard 7-11-0 K Gaule (3)
10 0-42 TRYING AGAIN 13 (BF,S) D Gandolfo 7-11-0 2nd pref
11 5-24 GARRYLOUGH 24 (G) D Gandolfo 6-10-9 M Richards
12 30-F SECOND CALL 41 (BF,F,S) T Forster 6-10-9 J R Kavanagh

3-1 Trying Again, 7-2 Second Call, 5-1 Falmouth Bay, 6-1 Solo Gent, 8-1 others.

1.30 CHRISTMAS BOX HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,268: 2m 5f 110yd) (16)

1 0-F4 TAMERGALE 56 (BF,S) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-13 D Walsh (5)
2 1-56 IL BAMBINO 15 (S) H Manners 7-11-12 Mr A Wintle (7)
3 5PU- BADRAKHANI 244 (C,G,S) C Nash 9-11-8 J R Kavanagh
4 4505 PLATO'S REPUBLIC 17 (C,F) J Jenkins 4-11-6 E Murphy
5 1/ BRAIDA BOY 937 (D,F,S) M Bradstock 9-11-8 R Thornton (7)
6 0-43 ALASKAN HEIR 12 (G,S) A Streeter 4-11-7 T Eley
7 1-40 GAMEFULL GOLD 14 (F,G) S Dow 6-11-6 A Dicken
8 -U10 HI HEDLEY 24 (F) G Hubbard 5-11-5 K Gaule (3)
9 /06- CARRIG DANCER 230 S Sherwood 7-11-2 S Curran (3)
10 600- CAMBO 241 (D,G,S) M Banks 9-11-1 M Richards
11 -251 OWENS QUEST 24 (G) T Etherington 5-10-12 2nd pref
12 1-P5 BLAKE'S WONDER 52 (F) R Alner 5-10-7 P Carey (5)
13 000- EYRE POINT 259 Mrs J Pitman 6-10-5 R Massey (5)
14 05-0 LOFTY DEED 19 (S) W Musson 5-10-4 S Keightley
15 -600 RED LIGHTER 10 J Old 6-10-2 T Grantham
16 5060 PONTEVECCHIO BELLA 14 Mrs L Jewell 9-10-0 W Walsh (7)

9-2 Owens Quest, 5-1 Hi Hedley, 6-1 Alaskan Heir, 7-1 Braida Boy, 8-1 Badrakhani, 10-1 Il Bambino, 12-1 others.

2.00 Q103 HANDICAP CHASE (£2,997: 3m) (8)

1 11-2 RECTORY GARDEN 60 (C,D,S) T Forster 6-11-12 J R Kavanagh
2 P1-1 KILFINNY CROSS 46 (C,D,F,G,S) J Pearce 7-11-11 J McLaughlin
3 15-1 DISTINCTIVE 13 (S) M Wilkinson 8-11-5 T Grantham
4 4-61 MANEREE 19 (CD,F,G,S) N Callaghan 8-11-3 D Gallagher
5 -3PF BUCKSHOT 12 (G,S) J Gifford 7-11-1 Mr P O'Keeffe (7)
6 3P-2 SEDGE WARBLER 21 Mrs P Robeson 8-10-10 M Richards
7 21-5 SPROWSTON BOY 19 (D,F,G,S) M Chapman 12-10-4 2nd pref
8 564- SIMWELL 365 (CD,G) G Hubbard 7-10-3 K Gaule (3)

5-2 Maneree, 3-1 Kilfinny Cross, 7-2 Distinctive, 4-1 Rectory Garden, 5-1 Sedge Warbler, 12-1 Buckshot, 14-1 others

2.30 FESTIVE SPIRIT NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £1,877: 3m 2f) (11)

1 0PP1 CAVALERO 24 (S) H Manners 6-11-5 2nd pref
2 3 ASK ME KINDLY 24 O Sherwood 7-10-12 M Richards
3 3-4P FIFTH FUSILIER 12 (B) Miss A Embiricos 8-10-12 J Ryan
4 P- FLOTATION 248 John Berry 8-10-12 D Morris
5 35-0 JULTARA 15 (S) J Edwards 6-10-12 J R Kavanagh
6 00U0 MILO BOY 6 M Chapman 4-10-12 2nd pref
7 PF-0 NETHERCOTE LAD 10 M Wilkinson 5-10-12 K Gaule (3)
8 66-4 SPACEAGE GOLD 38 J Old 6-10-12 T Grantham
9 -4UP SPIKEY 24 (G) J Jenkins 9-10-12 E Murphy
10 /43- MISS NOSEY OATS 396 K Burke 7-10-7 R Massey (5)
11 F THIRD MELODY 21 (F) J Mulhns 9-10-7 S Curran (3)

7-2 Ask Me Kindly, 9-2 Cavalero, 5-1 Third Melody, Jultara, Miss Nosey Oats, 7-1 Spaceage Gold, 12-1 Spikey, 16-1 others.

3.00 BOXING DAY HANDICAP CHASE (£2,651: 2m 110yd) (5)

1 6135 RUPPLES 6 (D,F,G) M Chapman 8-11-10 W Worthington
2 2513 DRIVING FORCE 7 (B,CD,F) Mrs McCourt 9-11-8 M Richards
3 1121 NEWHALL PRINCE 10 (D,F,G) A Streeter 7-11-8 2nd pref
4 /1/ WYLAM 664 (F,G,S) J Gifford 8-11-8 Mr P O'Keeffe (7)
5 6431 FIERCE 12 (D,F,G,S) J Jenkins 7-11-7 E Murphy

2-1 Newhall Prince, 3-1 Wylam, 7-2 Driving Force, Fierce, 9-2 Rupples.

3.30 MISTLETOE STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,690: 2m 110yd) (15)

1 BLUSTERY DAY R Alner 5-11-4 P Carey (5)
2 3 BRAMLEY MAY 27 R Williams 5-11-4 S Keightley
3 6 CARDINAL RULE 21 J Edwards 6-11-4 J R Kavanagh
4 3-2 CHAI-YO 14 J Old 5-11-4 T Grantham
5 *CORRIMULZIE* K Morgan 4-11-4 S Ryan (7)
6 00 EQUESTRIANISM 5 J Pearce 4-11-4 J McLaughlin
7 GIPSY GEOF G Hubbard 4-11-4 K Gaule (3)
8 HIJACK Miss A Embiricos 4-11-4 J Ryan
9 0 LINDA'S PRINCE 12 O Brennan 6-11-4 S O'Donnell (7)
10 OPTIMISTIC AFFAIR A Streeter 4-11-4 T Eley
11 SAFEGLIDE J Gifford 5-11-4 Mr P O'Keeffe (7)
12 6 THE CAPTAIN'S WISH 27 D Nicholson 4-11-4 R Massey (5)
13 5 COMPUTERAID LADY 18 R Curtis 5-10-13 D Morris
14 30- FLEXWING 304 T Holland-Martin 5-10-13 M Richards
15 ZEN OR J Mullins 4-10-13 S Curran (3)

4-1 Chai-Yo, Bramley May, 6-1 Safeglide, The Captain's Wish, 8-1 others.

□ Two horses — the Les Eyre-trained Greek Night Out and Mick Ryan's Stevie's Wonder — are set to lose races after traces of banned substances were found in their urine samples.

MARKET RASEN

THUNDERER

12.25 Kimberley Boy. 12.55 Quiet Mistress. 1.25 Kingdom Of Shades. 2.00 High Padre. 2.30 Nocatchim. 3.05 Artic Wings. 3.35 Lucy Tufty.

GOING: GOOD (7.00AM INSPECTION)

12.25 MISTLETOE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,786: 2m 1f 110yd) (13 runners)

1 2231 BRACKENTHWAITE 8 (G) L L-James 5-12-5 (7ex) R McCarthy (7)
2 14U5 EXCLUSION 22 (F) J Hetherton 6-12-0 R Marley
3 5-02 TREVEETHAN 19 Mrs S Austin 6-11-6 D Wilkinson
4 3-PP ERLEMO 40 (V,C,S) W Clay 6-11-3 Guy Lewis (3)
5 /P DUBLIN INDEMNITY 12 (B,D,G) M Bielby 6-10-13 F Leahy (3)
6 F-41 KIMBERLEY BOY 27 (F) Mrs M Reveley 5-10-12 G Lee (3)
7 0-30 WATER DIVINER 67 (F,G) K Wingrove 5-10-11 J Ryan
8 6006 SMART DEBUTANTE 12 (F) Miss S Wilton 6-10-8 M Foster
9 P03 KINDAKOOLA 20 M Chapman 4-10-7 W Worthington
10 0020 RAFTER-J 18 J A Harris 4-10-7 A S Smith
11 00-5 DREAM START 7 Mrs S Smith 5-10-6 R Guest
12 00-0 SALUTATION 18 (V) T Kersey 4-10-0 Susan Kersey
13 0P-0 THOMAS RAND 29 M Dods 5-10-0 W McFarland

3-1 Kimberley Boy, 9-2 Brackenthwaite, 5-1 Exclusion, 7-1 Treveethan, 8-1 Kindakoola, 10-1 Dream Start, 12-1 others.

12.55 BRUCE CARR MEMORIAL TROPHY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,860: 3m 1f) (14)

1 2-33 CARSON CITY 28 (BF,G) Mrs M Reveley 8-12-0 G Lee (3)
2 1P06 RUSTINO 13 (B,C,G,S) W Cunningham 9-11-11 J Supple (3)
3 3F11 PERUVIAN GALE 12 (D,F,G) Mrs S Smith 6-11-11 R Guest
4 B3-1 STORMY CORAL 46 (G,S) C Parker 5-11-10 B Storey
5 12-2 QUIET MISTRESS 28 (S) W Bethell 5-11-9 A S Smith
6 35/ OCEAN LEADER 643 (F) Mrs D Haine 8-11-9 G Hogan (3)
7 0-32 IVY HOUSE 34 (BF,G,S) J J O'Neill 7-11-8 A Roche (3)
8 -326 FINAL BEAT 21 J Curtis 6-11-8 L O'Hara
9 2-64 NATIVE MONY 24 M Hammond 6-11-8 Mr C Bonner (3)
10 -PF5 SOLOMAN SPRINGS 11 (B,F) Mrs V Ward 5-11-3 W McFarland
11 UB-3 KIBBY BANK 34 J Howard Johnson 6-10-13 F Leahy (3)
12 50P- BALAAT 279 (F) M Chapman 7-10-10 W Worthington
13 44-P APRIL CITY 13 (B,S) C Smith 6-10-9 M Ranger
14 6P-0 GOLD PIGEON 87 B Rothwell 6-10-3 D J Kavanagh (5)

3-1 Peruvian Gale, 5-1 Stormy Coral, Quiet Mistress, 7-1 Ivy House, Ocean Leader, 8-1 Kibby Bank, 10-1 Rustino, 12-1 others.

1.25 SANDILANDS GOLFING HOLIDAYS MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,915: 2m 3f 110yd) (16)

1 0-26 AH THERE YOU ARE 38 (BF) K Bailey 6-11-5 W McFarland
2 4 ALCIAN BLUE 24 M Hammond 4-11-5 Mr C Bonner (3)
3 26-6 BE BRAVE 12 T Etherington 5-11-5 I Lawrence
4 COUNT OF FLANDERS 790F K Morgan 5-11-5 A S Smith
5 4 HONEY MOUNT 11 N Walker 4-11-5 R Guest
6 0- JASONS FARM 234 W Clay 5-11-5 Guy Lewis (3)
7 5-23 KINGDOM OF SHADES 12 A Turnell 5-11-5 L O'Hara
8 00-6 MACS HERO 10 C Smith 5-11-5 M Ranger
9 /020 MAJOR SIOUX 10 Mrs S Smith 4-11-5 B Wilkinson (7)
10 00U0 MILO BOY 6 M Chapman 4-11-5 W Worthington
11 1/ PHILHARMONIC 967 (F) J Fitzgerald 7-11-5 F Leahy (3)
12 05 SWISS TACTIC 29 A Jessop 6-11-5 G Lee (3)
13 00- GILDORANS LASS 274 J Upson 4-11-0 J Supple (3)
14 2-1 HENRIETTA HOWARD 35 (F) Mrs D Haine 5-11-0 G Hogan (3)
15 0-40 OLD BETSY 10 Mrs S Smith 5-11-0 L McGrath (7)
16 U2- RUMI 238F C Egerton 4-11-0 M Brennan

2-1 Kingdom Of Shades, 4-1 Rumi, 5-1 Henrietta Howard, 7-1 Ah There You Are, 8-1 Alcian Blue, 10-1 Honey Mount, 12-1 others.

□ Newmarket's Cherry Hinton Stakes, which has produced two of the last three 1,000 Guineas winners in Sayyedati and Harayir, is to be upgraded to group two status next year.

2.00 LINCOLNSHIRE NATIONAL (Handicap chase: £10,601: 4m 1f) (10)

1 -111 HIGH PADRE 10 (C,F,G,S) J Fitzgerald 9-11-7 F Leahy (3)
2 -3UU *DARK OAK 10 (C,G,S) J Curtis 9-11-2* L O'Hara
3 0-44 DO BE BRIEF 12 (G,S) Mrs J Pitman 10-11-1 I Lawrence
4 -PF1 MATT REID 10 (C,F,G,S) J Leigh 11-10-11 Mr W Morgan
5 -640 HILLWALK 12 (B,F,G,S) R Curtis 9-10-10 A Thornton
6 1101 IFFEEE 10 (F,S) P Bowen 8-10-8 R Guest
7 4-0P HABTON WHIN 13 (G) M H Easterby 9-10-4 W McFarland
8 2-P5 DIAMOND FORT 13 (CD,F,G,S) J McConnochie 10-10-4 M Brennan
9 33-4 PENNINE PRIDE 13 (G,S) M Hammond 8-10-0 Mr C Bonner (3)
10 21-5 SPROWSTON BOY 19 (F,G,S) M Chapman 12-10-0 W Worthington

6-4 High Padre, 9-2 Matt Reid, 5-1 Iffeee, 7-1 Do Be Brief, 10-1 Pennine Pride, 12-1 Diamond Fort, 16-1 others.

2.30 ROSELAND GROUP KELVINGTON HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,913: 2m 3f 110yd) (16)

1 410- CASH CHASE 263 (CD,F,G,S) O Brennan 7-11-12 M Brennan
2 /21 SESAME SEED 17 (D,G,S) Mrs J Cecil 7-11-12 2nd pref
3 5554 BRAMBLEBERRY 17 (G,S) Mrs S Smith 6-11-8 R Guest
4 30-5 TEST MATCH 43 (CD,G,S) W Clay 6-11-5 Guy Lewis (3)
5 255- VASILIEV 234 (F,S) S Gollings 7-11-5 J Supple (3)
6 13-4 PRIDE OF MAY 45 (V,S) C Fairhurst 4-10-12 K Whelan (5)
7 /20 NATIVE FIELD 10 (F,S) J Fitzgerald 6-10-11 F Leahy (3)
8 22-0 MARSH'S LAW 24 (CD,F,G,S) O Brennan 8-10-9 G Lee (3)
9 6-13 *LET'S GET LOST 17 (F) J A Harris 6-10-9* 2nd pref
10 1114 CAN CAN CHARLIE 19 (C,BF,F,G) J Pearce 5-10-9 V Smith
11 1332 NOCATCHIM 21 (V,F,G,S) K Morgan 6-10-4 A S Smith
12 22-5 JUST SUPPOSEN 21 (F) B Rothwell 4-10-3 L O'Hara
13 P14U SASSIVER 21 (B,CD,F,G) P Kelleway 5-10-0 G Hogan (3)
14 46-0 BOLD AMBITION 18 T Kersey 8-10-0 Susan Kersey
15 0-03 TRISTAN'S COMET 12 (C,G,S) J L Harris 8-10-0 W McFarland
16 023P BRITANNIA MILLS 10 (F) M Chapman 4-10-0 W Worthington

11-4 Sesame Seed, 9-2 Sassiver, 6-1 Native Field, Vasiliev, 7-1 Can Can Charlie, 8-1 Cash Chase, 10-1 others.

3.05 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICES CHASE (Qualifier: £4,042: 2m 4f) (11)

1 -34F MR FUDGE 6 (D,F,G) Mrs J Brown 8-11-9 E Callaghan
2 22-1 ARTIC WINGS 19 (F,G,S) O Brennan 7-11-7 M Brennan
3 54-U ANOTHER VENTURE 11 (S) F Murphy 5-11-5 M Foster
4 APOLLO COLOSSO A Turnell 5-11-5 Mr C Storey
5 500- BUSKING ALONG 221 F Murphy 6-11-5 D J Kavanagh
6 4/2- CAITHNESS CLOUD 363 (S) C Parker 7-11-5 B Storey
7 /P/ COPPER CABLE 704 C Smith 8-11-5 M Ranger
8 /2-F GARRISON COMMANDER 40 (BF) A Turnell 6-11-5 L O'Hara
9 2P-F GOING AROUND 26 (G,S) K Bailey 7-11-5 W McFarland
10 40/ I'M TOBY 661 (G) A Foster 8-11-5 R Guest
11 2P-3 PEARL'S CHOICE 25 J McConnochie 7-11-0 2nd pref

11-4 Artic Wings, 4-1 Going Around, 5-1 Pearl's Choice, 6-1 Garrison Commander, 7-1 Caithness Cloud, 8-1 Mr Fudge, 10-1 others.

3.35 CHRISTMAS SPIRIT NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (£2,136: 2m 1f 110yd) (15)

1 /05 ALMAMZAR 11 N Tinkler 5-11-4 A S Smith
2 JUST FLAMENCO 8F M Ryan 4-11-4 R Guest
3 4- PACIFIC POWER 614F A James 5-11-4 J Supple (3)
4 22F2 LUCY TUFTY 19 (CD,G) J Pearce 4-11-3 V Smith
5 4/5 PRINCESS MAXINE 6 J J O'Neill 6-11-3 A Roche (3)
6 4511 STAC-POLLAIDH 22 (F) K Bailey 5-11-3 W McFarland
7 5-5U DUGORT STRAND 38 O Brennan 4-11-0 M Brennan
8 F015 LITTLE BLACKFOOT 20 (CD,BF,S) J L Harris 7-10-10 I Lawrence
9 R0/ THE ADJUTANT 750 F Murphy 7-10-10 M Foster
10 0 CELTIC CEILIDH 20 Mrs M Reveley 4-10-9 G Lee (3)
11 00- SCOTTISH WEDDING 390 (V) W Clay 5-10-9 Guy Lewis (3)
12 P HEALTHY RISK 17 T Kersey 4-10-6 Susan Kersey
13 0 TREE OF TIME 83 J Norton 4-10-6 E Callaghan (5)
14 0P BUZZARDS HALL 18 M Chapman 5-10-5 W Worthington
15 TAUFELIANE 399F J L Harris 4-10-5 G Hogan (3)

3-1 Stac-Pollaidh, 5-1 Celtic Ceilidh, 6-1 Dugort Strand, Lucy Tufty, 7-1 Princess Maxine, 8-1 Almamzar, 10-1 Little Blackfoot, 12-1 others.

HEREFORD

THUNDERER

12.35 La Menorquina. 1.05 Three Philosophers. 1.35 *Doc Cottrill. 2.05 Pimberley Place. 2.35 Hightown* Cavalier. 3.05 Dantes Sun. 3.35 Silver Standard.

GOING: HEAVY (7.30AM INSPECTION)

12.35 TURKEY NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £2,528: 2m 3f 110yd) (11 runners)

1 1 KING GIRSEACH 55 (S) K Bailey 6-11-5 A Thornton
2 3412 LA MENORQUINA 24 (G) D Marks 5-11-0 D Gallagher
3 0-05 LORD LOFTY 19 Mrs J Pitman 5-10-12 R Bellamy
4 05-0 RATATOUILLE ROAD 21 R Lee 5-10-12 P McLoughlin
5 PP0 STRONG GLEN 10 P Wegmann 7-10-12 S Fowler (7)
6 0/0 THE MEXICANS GONE 26 D Geraghty 7-10-12 V Slattery
7 0/0 WOODYOU 29 F Jordan 5-10-12 J Lodder
8 2-05 COOLE HILL 20 (G) D Nicholson 4-10-7 R Johnson (3)
9 F303 MOONLIGHT AIR 10 J Spearing 4-10-7 —
10 U2- RUMI 238F C Egerton 4-10-7 2nd pref
11 3S-5 SPRING GRASS 34 B Ryall 7-10-7 T Dascombe (5)

5-2 King Girseach, 4-1 Rumi, 5-1 Moonlight Air, La Menorquina, 8-1 Coole Hill, 10-1 Lord Lofty, 14-1 others.

1.05 TURKEY NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £2,528: 2m 3f 110yd) (10)

1 1 POTENTATE 24 (S) M Pipe 4-11-5 J Lower
2 8-1U THREE PHILOSOPHERS 27 (CD,BF,G) T Forster 6-11-5 A Thornton
3 0350 ALLOW 15 B Llewellyn 4-10-12 D Matthews (5)
4 4- PACIFIC POWER 614F A James 5-10-12 2nd pref
5 05 RAISE AND GAIN 13 N Twiston-Davies 4-10-12 C Llewellyn
6 *REBEL PRIEST C Egerton 5-10-12* D Gallagher
7 FF3/ SOUND FORECAST 615P (S) Mrs S Johnson 7-10-12 R Johnson (3)
8 0 EMMA GRIMES 21 J Moore 4-10-7 G Upton
9 10-6 MISS OPTIMIST 26 (F) D Nicholson 5-10-7 R Johnson (3)
10 04 OATIS ROSE 24 M Sheppard 5-10-7 R Bellamy

5-4 Potentate, 4-1 Three Philosophers, 7-1 Miss Optimist, 8-1 others.

1.35 MINCE PIE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,940: 3m 2f) (9)

1 -U30 DOC COTTRILL 29 (S) N Twiston-Davies 5-12-0 C Llewellyn
2 P/F- HYMER 248 (S) B Llewellyn 6-12-0 D Matthews (5)
3 -015 WAKT 19 (D,BF,F,S) J White 5-11-10 P McLoughlin
4 -225 WHITEBONNET 11 (S) C Egerton 5-11-9 D Gallagher
5 0230 *COPPER COIL 24 W G M Turner 5-11-5* A Thornton
6 P0P0 BOOGIE BOPPER 6 (V,S) M Pipe 6-11-0 J Lower
7 P/ THE TITAN GHOST 955 (S) S Coathup 6-10-10 Mark Brown (7)
8 0-00 FLYING IMP 22 (V) R Hollinshead 4-10-9 M W Martin (7)
9 3030 ITS GRAND 6 J Bradley 6-10-0 R Johnson (3)

11-4 Doc Cottrill, 3-1 Its Grand, 4-1 Whitebonnet, 5-1 Wakt, 7-1 Flying Imp, 10-1 Copper Coil, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Pipe, 30 winners from 100 runners, 30.0%; C Egerton, 3 from 10, 30%; N Twiston-Davies, 20 from 71, 28.2%; D Nicholson, 10 from 41, 24.4%; K Bailey, 15 from 75, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: C Llewellyn, 15 winners from 59 rides, 25.4%; T Dascombe, 3 from 17, 17.6%; D Matthews, 3 from 21, 14.3%; P McLoughlin, 5 from 38, 13.2%; G Upton, 5 from 44, 11.4%.

2.05 PLUM PUDDING NOVICES CHASE (£2,879: 2m) (6)

1 3F41 PIMBERLEY PLACE 25 (G,S) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-7 C Llewellyn
2 24-3 CAPENWRAY 41 (G) J King 6-11-0 G Upton
3 0-P *DARK DIAMOND 153 H Kavanagh 5-11-0* T C Murphy (7)
4 10/ RIVER LOSSIE 650 (G,S) C Egerton 6-11-0 D Gallagher
5 /5-3 STEY SUNY 35 R Dickin 8-11-0 D Meredith
6 0-42 TRYING AGAIN 13 (BF,S) D Gandolfo 7-11-0 NON-RUNNER

4-6 Pimberley Place, 5-2 Capenwray, 5-1 River Lossie, 14-1 Stey Suny, 20-1 Dark Diamond.

2.35 CAROL RICHARDSON BIRTHDAY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,598: 2m 1f) (10)

1 /41 CAWARRA BOY 27 (CD,S) C James 7-12-0 Mr E James
2 3/5- FRONTAGER 491 C Egerton 5-12-0 2nd pref
3 6-P4 BIETSCHHORN BARD 26 D Gandolfo 5-11-4 D Fortt (5)
4 0/3- CARELESS FARMER 479 N Twiston-Davies 5-11-1 C Llewellyn
5 4311 HIGHTOWN CAVALIER 11 (C,G,S) R Hodges 4-11-0 J Harris (7)
6 2246 TENAYESTELIGN 55 D Marks 7-10-13 D Gallagher
7 0236 VALISKY 24 R Lee 5-10-9 P McLoughlin
8 P/0 *MR POPPLETON 87 R Brotherton 6-10-3* R Bellamy
9 00-0 MUTAWALI 96 R Baker 5-10-0 V Slattery
10 /P6- CELTIC EMERALD 398 R Eckley 7-10-0 R Johnson (3)

3-1 Cawarra Boy, 7-2 Hightown Cavalier, 4-1 Bietschhorn Bard, 5-1 others

3.05 TOTE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (*£3,269: 3m 1f 110yd*) (9)

1 1-46 HOLY STING 24 (S) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-12 C Llewellyn
2 -F32 MOBILE MESSENGER 18 (S) T George 7-11-7 D Gallagher
3 3-53 BIG ARTHUR 11 D Nicholson 6-11-5 R Johnson (3)
4 5P26 PRIZE MATCH 10 (S) J Tuck 6-11-0 2nd pref
5 P/3 BALLYDOUGAN 15 (V) P Nicholls 7-11-0 T Dascombe (5)
6 F-62 DANTES SUN 32 (G) T Forster 6-10-8 A Thornton
7 -040 JIMMY'S FANCY 10 Mrs S Williams 7-10-0 G Upton
8 6-FP LO-FLYING MISSILE 11 R Dickin 7-10-0 R Bellamy
9 0/P UPTON LASS 34 C Nash 6-10-0 P McLoughlin

3-1 Dantes Sun, 7-2 Mobile Messenger, Prize Match, 4-1 Big Arthur, 8-1 Holy Sting, 10-1 Ballydougan, 16-1 Jimmy's Fancy, 25-1 others.

3.35 HUGHES CATERERS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,906: 2m 3f 110yd) (15)

1 1-61 SPRING SAINT 25 (S) Miss C Horler 6-12-0 G Upton
2 20-P STAR MOVER 10 (CD,G,S) C Smith 6-12-0 B Clarke (7)
3 5-04 MY SWAN SONG 15 (F,G) J Smith 10-11-11 A Thornton
4 -1F0 SILVER STANDARD 24 (G,S) T Forster 5-11-10 R Johnson (3)
5 5141 CORRIN HILL 11 (C,F,G,S) R Hodges 8-11-9 T Dascombe (5)
6 -605 FLY BY NORTH 20 (G,S) D Nicholson 7-11-9 X Aizpuru (7)
7 52/ RAGGERTY 627F (S) Miss K Whitehouse 5-11-3 W Humphreys
8 1/ *BRAIDA BOY 937 (F,S) M Bradstock 9-11-0* 2nd pref
9 00-0 SEVERN GALE 11 (S) F Jordan 5-10-13 Mr M Jackson
10 300- FREE DANCER 248 (C,S) R Brotherton 5-10-7 C Llewellyn
11 -016 PROJECT'S MATE 11 (C,F,S) R Brown 8-10-2 P McLoughlin
12 -01P CASSIO'S BOY 15 (S) R Eckley 4-10-1 D Gallagher
13 -004 LEESWOOD 26 (V,F,S) R Lee 7-10-1 R Bellamy
14 -022 DANCING DANCER 26 (D,F) D Geraghty 6-10-0 V Slattery
15 5-F3 DORMSTON BOYO 22 T Wall 5-10-0 M Keightley (7)

3-1 Corrin Hill, 4-1 Spring Saint, 6-1 Fly By North, 7-1 Silver Standard, 8-1 My Swan Song, Dancing Dancer, 10-1 others

□ There are ten acceptors, including the Kim Bailey-trained Cheltenham Gold Cup winner Master Oats, for the Ericcson Chase at Leopardstown on Thursday.

NEWTON ABBOT

THUNDERER

12.50 Tragic Hero. 1.20 Lemon's Mill. 1.50 No Near Miss. 2.30 Bramblehill Buck. 3.05 Ramstar. 3.35 *Megamunch.*

GOING: HEAVY

12.50 THURLESTONE HOTEL JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,860: 2m 1f) (12 runners)

1 120 VOLUNTEER 20F (F) R O'Sullivan 11-5 Peter Hobbs
2 OUT RANKING 37 (D,S) M Pipe 11-0 D Bridgwater
3 0 BALLESWHIDDEN 33 B Smart 10-12 M Molloy (7)
4 2 CYRUS THE GREAT 19 (BF) K Bailey 10-12 J Magee (3)
5 5 FAUSTINO 10 P Hobbs 10-12 G McCourt
6 P0 FEISTY BOSS 67 N Twiston-Davies 10-12 T Jenks
7 400 GENUINE LEADER 10 (B) P Murphy 10-12 N Mann
8 GOLDEN POUND 75F Miss G Kelleway 10-12 A P McCoy
9 30 JARVEY 66 P Eccles 10-12 Mareadach Kelly (7)
10 SAILEP 321F R Hodges 10-12 J Frost
11 U2 TRAGIC HERO 78F (B,BF) M Pipe 10-12 D Salter (5)
12 4 UNITED FRONT 45 R O'Sullivan 10-12 NON-RUNNER

9-4 Cyrus The Great, 3-1 Tragic Hero, Out Ranking, 8-1 Faustino, 10-1 others

1.20 EBF TATTERSALLS IRELAND MARES NOVICES CHASE (*Qualifier: £3,201: 2m 5f 110yd*) (10)

1 1P-P BOURNEL 15 (V,S) C Barwell 7-11-0 N Mann
2 P0-P DAVES DELIGHT 15 Miss Waterman 9-11-0 Mr G Shenkin (7)
3 2112 GALA'S PRIDE 83 (BF,F,G) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-0 T Jenks
4 FF23 GLENFINN PRINCESS 32 (S) Mrs M Jones 7-11-0 D Byrne
5 10-F LEMON'S MILL 27 (BF,F,G,S) M Pipe 6-11-0 D Bridgwater
6 0-34 MYBLACKTHORN 15 (S) P Nicholls 5-11-0 A P McCoy
7 P-00 NIKI SU 25 (B,G) A Jones 7-11-0 Peter Hobbs
8 2P-3 PEARL'S CHOICE 25 J McConnochie 7-11-0 M Sharratt
9 5P26 PRIZE MATCH 10 (S) J Tuck 6-11-0 J Frost
10 3/1- SISTER STEPHANIE 379 (G,S) Mrs M McCourt 6-11-0 —

6-4 Lemon's Mill, 4-1 Gala's Pride, 5-1 Pearl's Choice, 6-1 Sister Stephanie, 10-1 Glenfinn Princess, Myblackthorn, 12-1 Prize Match, 16-1 others

1.50 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,772: 2m 1f) (13)

1 10 WINSFORD HILL 32 (CD,G) P Hobbs 4-11-5 Peter Hobbs
2 0333 DAMAS 55 (B) M Pipe 4-11-0 D Bridgwater
3 0P DANNY GALE 41 Mrs M McCourt 4-11-0 —
4 0-30 EL FREDDIE 18 J Old 5-11-0 T Jenks
5 0-66 HANGING GROVE 25 P Murphy 5-11-0 N Mann
6 0- HILL CRUISE 278 N Ayliffe 6-11-0 M Molloy (7)
7 5- CALLERMINE 255 R Buckler 6-10-9 G Tormey (3)
8 423 COME DANCE WITH ME 15 R Frost 5-10-9 J Frost
9 66-P CRAVATE 13 Mrs J Mills 5-10-9 Mr R Mills
10 3FPP FLEETING GLANCE 65 Miss L Wonnacott 6-10-9 Mr G Shenkin (7)
11 54-0 MISS FIRECRACKER 27 R Frost 6-10-9 R Darke
12 66-4 NO NEAR MISS 25 (S) D Elsworth 5-10-9 A McCabe
13 0/ PAPRIKA 684 A Newcombe 6-10-9 S Fox (5)

2-1 Damas, 4-1 Come Dance With Me, 8-1 Hanging Grove, No Near Miss, 10-1 El Freddie, Winsford Hill, 12-1 Danny Gale, 16-1 others

2.30 LANGSTONE CLIFF HOTEL HANDICAP CHASE (£3,485: 3m 2f 110yd) (8)

1 13-P TERAO 25 (S) M Pipe 9-12-0 D Bridgwater
2 2-P5 JAILBREAKER 18 (CD,G,S) B Millman 8-11-12 D Salter (5)
3 -640 HILLWALK 12 (B,F,G,S) R Curtis 9-11-11 2nd pref
4 5503 KILLESHIN 12 (G,S) H Manners 9-11-2 Mr A Charles-Jones
5 11F1 BRAMBLEHILL BUCK 15 (B,C,S) P Nicholls 6-11-0 A P McCoy
6 P5-2 SILVERINO 25 (B,D,G,S) S Earle 9-10-11 Peter Hobbs
7 5-46 FIDDLERS PIKE 22 (S) Mrs R Henderson 14-10-11 Mrs R Henderson
8 -41F ITS A SNIP 44 (B,D,G,S) C Mann 10-10-6 T Jenks

11-4 Bramblehill Buck, 3-1 Terao, 9-2 Killeshin, 6-1 Silverino, 8-1 others.

3.05 CHRISTMAS PUDDING HANDICAP CHASE (£3,095: 2m 110yd) (7)

1 P4-P BENJAMIN LANCASTER 15 (C,D,G,S) M Griffin 11-11-10 N Mann
2 5-14 RAMSTAR 26 (F,S) P Hobbs 7-11-4 G Tormey (3)
3 /R6 MAPLE DANCER 15 (D,F,G) D Bacon 9-11-4 Mr G Shenkin (7)
4 P-FP TALE OF ENDURANCE 29 (S) C Mann 7-11-4 T Jenks
5 3542 CLEAR IDEA 15 (CD,F,G) R Frost 7-10-13 J Frost
6 0014 SUPREME MUSIC 27 (F) P Nicholls 6-10-12 A P McCoy
7 20-2 SOVEREIGN NICHE 25 (V,F,G,S) M Pipe 7-10-11 D Bridgwater

5-2 Ramstar, 3-1 Clear Idea, Sovereign Niche, 6-1 Supreme Music, 8-1 others.

3.35 ROYAL CASTLE HOTEL NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,738: 2m 6f) (11)

1 0PP1 CAVALERO 24 (S) H Manners 6-12-0 Mr A Balding (7)
2 HIGHEST ROOTS 85F M Pipe 4-12-0 D Bridgwater
3 3-30 MELLION PRIDE 24 P Hobbs 7-11-7 G Tormey (3)
4 BF-6 FOX ON THE RUN 32 (B) A Turnell 8-11-0 A P McCoy
5 3/6 YOUNG TESS 55 N Babbage 5-10-12 N Mann
6 20-2 MR PLAYFULL 13 R Frost 5-10-6 J Frost
7 00-2 MEGAMUNCH 34 R Juckes 7-10-0 D Salter (5)
8 0F6- HAILE DERRING 208 N Twiston-Davies 5-10-0 T Jenks
9 P0-6 CELTIC REG 11 Mrs H Parrott 5-10-0 —
10 /P OLD DEER PARK 44 (G) P Jones 9-10-0 Mr M Burrows
11 0P-0 VEXFORD MODEL 186 V Greenway 5-10-0 M Griffiths (7)

5-2 Mellion Pride, 4-1 Fox On The Run, Haile Derring, Young Tess, 8-1 others.

WETHERBY

THUNDERER

12.50 Golden Torque. 1.20 Valiant Warrior. 1.50 Cool Luke. 2.20 Lo Stregone. 2.50 Cumbrian Challenge. 3.20 Tom Brodie.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (7.30AM INSPECTION) SIS

12.50 CHRISTMAS NOVICES HURDLE (*£3,050: 2m) (14 runners)*

1 0-1 COLONEL IN CHIEF 29 (D,S) F Murphy 5-11-5 P Carberry 91
2 3/F ADMIRALS SEAT 17 M W Easterby 7-10-12 J Driscoll [illegible]
3 0 ARTWORLD 17 M W Easterby 7-10-12 E Husband (3) 74
4 /3 BALHERNOCH 10 (BF) M H Easterby 6-10-12 L Wyer —
5 CRACKHILL FARM 430F Mrs M Reveley 4-10-12 N Smith —
6 DAJRAAN 670F N Twiston-Davies 6-10-12 C Maude —
7 0 EURO THYNE 17 M H Easterby 5-10-12 R Garritty —
8 45/ GOLDEN TORQUE 43F R Bastiman 8-10-12 H Bastiman (3) —
9 -236 *LEGAL LORD 10 M Hammond 5-10-12* D Bentley 72
10 LEIF THE LUCKY 188F Miss S Hall 6-10-12 N Bentley —
11 35-0 PUREVALUE 17 M W Easterby 4-10-12 J Callaghan 75
12 0- THE OTHER MAN 297 Miss L Siddall 5-10-12 M Newton (7) —
13 33-0 THURSDAY NIGHT 10 J Fitzgerald 4-10-12 M Dwyer 84
14 0 WAKING 10 J Fitzgerald 4-10-12 E Callaghan (5) —

7-4 Colonel In Chief, 4-1 Dajraan, 7-1 Crackhill Farm, 10-1 others.

1.20 SUPERMASTER HANDICAP CHASE (£6,873: 2m 4f 110yd) (5)

1 2-F6 MORCELI 31 (D,G,S) H Johnson 7-11-13 L Wyer 91
2 1FF0 WIND FORCE 17 (C,D,F,G) G Richards 10-10-11 N Bentley 92
3 2-14 GNOME'S TYCOON 45 (CD,F,S) H Johnson 9-10-6 P Carberry 95
4 1-22 VALIANT WARRIOR 10 (D,F,S) M Hammond 7-10-0 D Bentley [illegible]
5 -2UP STRONG SOUND 10 (CD,F,S) P Cheesbrough 8-10-0 C Maude 84

7-4 Gnome's Tycoon, 2-1 Morceli, 5-2 Valiant Warrior, 5-1 others

1.50 ST JOHN AMBULANCE HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,215: 2m) (12)

1 0-34 SWEET MIGNONETTE 59 (D,G) Mrs M Reveley 7-12-0 M Herrington (7) 89
2 10-0 GOLDEN HELLO 24 (D,F,G,S) M H Easterby 4-12-0 L Wyer 88
3 0000 WHITE WILLOW 10 (CD,F,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-11 Mr M H Naughton (7) 95
4 1-40 FOURTH IN LINE 18 (D,G,S) J Edwards 7-11-11 2nd pref 88
5 1-30 ALJADEER 17 (B,C,BF,F,G) M W Easterby 6-11-8 M Dwyer 91
6 -046 FRICKLEY 10 (D,G,S) F Murphy 9-11-7 P Carberry 92
7 14-0 COOL LUKE 31 (CD,F,S) G Moore 6-11-0 J Callaghan [illegible]
8 /P5 BANK VIEW 17 (D,G,S) N Tinkler 10-10-12 R Garritty —
9 -004 BLACKPATCH HILL 17 (CD,S) N Tinkler 6-10-7 E Husband (3) 90
10 /20 NATIVE FIELD 10 (D,F,S) J Fitzgerald 6-10-6 2nd pref 91
11 P24- KANNDABIL 239 (CD,G,S) N Tinkler 8-10-4 Mrs A Farrell —
12 3403 WEAVER GEORGE 29 (CD,F,G) J Hellens 5-10-4 — 90

7-2 Golden Hello, 4-1 Sweet Mignonette, 6-1 Aljadeer, 7-1 Fourth In Line, 8-1 Blackpatch Hill, Native Field, 10-1 White Willow, 12-1 others.

2.20 ROWLAND MEYRICK HANDICAP CHASE (£17,344: 3m 110yd) (9)

1 F-11 ONE MAN 17 (CD,F,G,S) G Richards 7-12-0 2nd pref 98
2 0-21 JODAMI 29 (D,F,G,S) P Beaumont 10-12-0 M Dwyer 92
3 -210 YOUNG HUSTLER 10 (CD,BF,F,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-8 C Maude 91
4 3-62 MONSIEUR LE CURE 17 (D,G,S) J Edwards 9-11-5 2nd pref 89
5 -4P2 COGENT 17 (CD,F,G,S) J Glover 11-10-13 R Garritty [illegible]
6 2-F6 MORCELI 31 (G,S) H Johnson 7-10-10 P Carberry 90
7 -211 SCOTTON BANKS 17 (CD,F,G,S) M H Easterby 6-10-3 L Wyer 96
8 43-1 LO STREGONE 24 (CD,F,G,S) T Tate 9-10-2 J Callaghan 94
9 0/5 CARBISDALE 18 (D,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 9-10-0 N Smith —

11-4 One Man, 7-2 Jodami, 4-1 Young Hustler, 5-1 Monsieur Le Cure, 7-1 Scotton Banks, 8-1 Lo Stregone, 10-1 Cogent, 12-1 others.

2.50 BOROUGHBRIDGE NOVICES CHASE (£4,419: 2m) (4)

1 3113 CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE 10 (CD,BF,F,G,S) M H Easterby 6-11-12 L Wyer [illegible]
2 /F-1 ASK TOM 19 (D,G,S) T Tate 6-11-9 R Garritty 90
3 116- AMIGOS 290 (G,S) J Fitzgerald 7-11-4 M Dwyer —
4 60-0 FIVE TO SEVEN 11 (S) C Thornton 6-11-4 P Carberry —

11-10 Cumbrian Challenge, 5-4 Ask Tom, 4-1 Amigos, 25-1 Five To Seven

3.20 BOXING DAY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,077: 2m 4f 110yd) (16)

1 -213 TOM BRODIE 28 (F,S) H Johnson 5-11-12 J Tilley 90
2 4015 DESERT FIGHTER 20 (CD,BF,F) Mrs M Reveley 4-11-9 M Herrington (7) [illegible]
3 22-5 CIRCUS LINE 10 M W Easterby 4-11-5 M Dwyer 90
4 -F12 RYE CROSSING 65 (F) M H Easterby 5-11-4 R Garritty 86
5 200- AINSI SOIT IL 285 F Murphy 4-11-2 P Carberry 92
6 2564 HUNTERS' HEAVEN 18 J Mackie 4-10-13 E Husband (3) 92
7 P-05 VALLEY GARDEN 24 (B,G,S) J J O'Neill 5-10-9 D Bentley 95
8 0-50 ELA MAN HOWA 10 N Tinkler 4-10-8 L Wyer 84
9 /05 ALMAMZAR 11 N Tinkler 5-10-5 2nd pref 88
10 0-SP THE GALLOPIN'MAJOR 24 Mrs M Reveley 5-10-4 N Smith 88
11 4-16 JUMBO STAR 66 (F) J Dixon 5-10-2 M Newton (7) 92
12 000 *LEAP IN THE DARK 10 Miss L Siddall 6-10-0* C Maude 95
13 -251 OWENS QUEST 24 (CD,G) T Etherington 5-10-0 R Rourke (7) 94
14 00/ SCEPTICAL 661 J Glover 7-10-0 J Callaghan —
15 -00U NO WORD 11 (F) R Bastiman 8-10-0 H Bastiman (3) —
16 00-2 MISTER TRICK 33 L Lungo 5-10-0 DOUBTFUL 72

7-2 Tom Brodie, 4-1 Rye Crossing, 8-1 Owens Quest, Desert Fighter, Ela Man Howa, 10-1 Circus Line, Jumbo Star, 12-1 others.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

1.00 Herbert Buchanan. 1.30 Church Law. 2.00 Captain Khedive. 2.40 Malwood Castle. 3.10 Preston Guild. 3.40 *Let's Get Lost.*

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (6.30AM INSPECTION) SIS

1.00 PERTEMPS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£5,623: 2m 4f 110yd) (7 runners)

1 3P1U SOPHISM 11 (B,F,G,S) M Pipe 6-11-11 Jamie Evans
2 -443 CORLY SPECIAL 21 (B,F,G,S) K Burke 8-11-9 A Larnach (3)
3 4121 JUDICIAL FIELD 11 (F,S) N Tinkler 6-11-9 J Railton
4 B3-2 EARLY DRINKER 12 (G) O Sherwood 7-11-6 J A McCarthy
5 40U1 FENWICK 19 (D,F,G,S) R Hodges 6-11-4 A Tory
6 1242 HERBERT BUCHANAN 7 (F) P Nicholls 5-10-12 A Dobbin
7 U5F3 CRACKING IDEA 22 (G) J Edwards 7-10-7 B Fenton (5)

3-1 Fenwick, 7-2 Judicial Field, 9-2 Herbert Buchanan, Sophism, 8-1 others.

1.30 DEEPFIELDS NOVICES CHASE (£7,058: 3m 1f) (6)

1 1121 ADDINGTON BOY 47 (D,F,G,S) G Richards 7-12-1 A Dobbin
2 -231 CHURCH LAW 11 (D,G) Mrs L Taylor 8-11-5 B Fenton
3 1-F1 MYLAND 41 (B,G) O Sherwood 6-11-5 J A McCarthy
4 1P-4 QUITE A MAN 13 (F,S) W Jenks 7-11-4 J Railton
5 00/P ARRANGE A GAME 7 (B) N Lamoden 8-11-0 B Clifford
6 00-3 HAG'S WAY 53 J Edwards 5-10-13 A Tory

Evens Addington Boy, 9-4 Myland, 3-1 Church Law, 14-1 Hag's Way, 20-1 others.

2.00 HARRY BROWN MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (£13,810: 2m) (7)

1 1-4F CLAY COUNTY 39 (D,BF,G,S) M Hammond 10-12-0 A Dobbin
2 54-5 YOUNG SNUGFIT 10 (D,F,G,S) O Sherwood 11-11-9 J A McCarthy
3 1F11 TIME WON'T WAIT 18 (D,F,G) R Phillips 6-10-10 J Railton
4 P5P- GAMBLING ROYAL 249 (G,S) P Pritchard 12-10-8 P Pritchard
5 1212 CAPTAIN KHEDIVE 24 (D,F,G,S) P Nicholls 7-10-8 B Clifford
6 600- LASATA 244 (D,G,S) P Hobbs 10-10-0 R Davis
7 1121 NEWHALL PRINCE 10 (D,F,G) A Streeter 7-10-0 Gary Lyons

2-1 Time Won't Wait, 9-4 Captain Khedive, 7-2 Clay County, 8-1 Young Snugfit, 10-1 Newhall Prince, 16-1 Lasata, 33-1 Gambling Royal.

2.40 JTS (INTERNATIONAL) NOVICES HURDLE (£2,640: 2m 4f 110yd) (13)

1 3-15 DANZIG ISLAND 27 (F) W Jenks 4-11-6 A Dobbin
2 3-21 MALWOOD CASTLE 34 (D,G) R Alner 5-11-6 B Fenton (5)
3 3-12 STORM NORTH 18 (D,F) Miss V Williams 5-11-6 R Davis
4 P0-6 CELTIC REG 11 Mrs H Parrott 5-11-0 2nd pref
5 4/5 FINE STALKER 11 D Caro 7-11-0 J A McCarthy
6 4-24 FLASHMAN 41 B Llewellyn 5-11-0 Mr J L Llewellyn
7 -42P ICE COLD IN ALEX 24 W Jenks 4-11-0 —
8 00-2 MEGAMUNCH 34 R Juckes 7-11-0 2nd pref
9 4P PHILATELIC 29 R Alner 4-11-0 J Railton
10 6P-0 RELAXED LAD 10 J Peacock 6-11-0 Philip Hughes (7)
11 P-02 RIGHT ANGLE 41 (V) Miss M Rowland 4-11-0 Gary Lyons
12 002 WEEHEBY 10 M Barraclough 6-11-0 —
13 06-U BODFARI PRODUCER 29 J Edwards 5-10-9 A Tory

3-1 Malwood Castle, 4-1 Storm North, 5-1 Weeheby, 7-1 Danzig Island, Bodfari Producer, 14-1 Celtic Reg, Right Angle, 16-1 others.

3.10 LIFTING GEAR & TOOL HIRE SELLING HURDLE (£2,493: 2m) (15)

1 14U5 EXCLUSION 22 (D,F) J Hetherton 6-11-6 2nd pref
2 -1F3 *PRESTON GUILD 47 (D,BF,F) S Earle 5-11-6* J Railton
3 2104 SAXON MAGIC 47 (F,S) J Bennett 5-11-1 B Fenton (5)
4 3450 AMBER VALLEY 15 D Williams 4-11-0 A Dobbin
5 0-40 DANCE ON SIXPENCE 11 J Peacock 7-11-0 Philip Hughes (7)
6 00-P DUVEEN 11F (BF) J White 5-11-0 B Clifford
7 02 LATIN LEADER 27 C Egerton 5-11-0 J A McCarthy
8 F-0 M'BEBE 193 G Fierro 5-11-0 —
9 0P NORD LYS 29F B Llewellyn 4-11-0 Mr J L Llewellyn
10 -000 NORTHERN SINGER 40 R Hodges 5-11-0 A Tory
11 0020 RAFTER-J 18 J A Harris 4-11-0 2nd pref
12 0232 TONY'S MIST 7 (BF) J Bradley 5-11-0 A Larnach (3)
13 2266 ZAHID 53 K Burke 4-11-0 DOUBTFUL
14 -006 RUGRAT 13 B Preece 5-10-9 Gary Lyons
15 05-P SHE KNEW THE RULES 180 D Casey 5-10-9 R Davis

4-1 Amber Valley, 9-2 Preston Guild, 6-1 Latin Leader, Saxon Magic, 7-1 Exclusion, 8-1 Tony's Mist, 14-1 others

3.40 HAGUE FASTENERS HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,272: 2m) (10)

1 1324 WINDWARD ARIOM 11 (D,F,G,S) K Burke 9-12-0 A Larnach (3)
2 6213 ELFLAA 21 (D,BF,F) N Henderson 4-12-0 M Lane (7)
3 5422 TEJANO GOLD 40 (D,G,S) P Bradley 5-11-13 J Railton
4 1233 NORDIC VALLEY 13 (D,BF,F,G,S) M Pipe 4-11-9 Jamie Evans
5 6-13 LET'S GET LOST 17 (D,F) J A Harris 6-11-4 B Fenton (5)
6 412- SARMATIAN 139F (D,F,G) M Hammond 4-10-12 A Dobbin
7 P14U SASSIVER 21 (B,D,F,G) P Kelleway 5-10-9 2nd pref
8 U244 THROWER 13 B Preece 4-10-9 Gary Lyons
9 1-46 DAILY SPORT GIRL 40 (D,G,S) B Llewellyn 6-10-3 Mr J L Llewellyn
10 0551 CHRIS'S GLEN 13 (V,D,F,G) J Bradley 6-10-0 B Clifford

7-2 Tejano Gold, 5-1 Elflaa, Let's Get Lost, 6-1 Sassiver, 7-1 Windward Ariom, Chris's Glen, 9-1 others

WINCANTON

THUNDERER

12.40 Silver Shred. 1.10 Smith's Band. 1.40 Top Cees. 2.10 Gales Cavalier. 2.45 The Carrot Man. *3.15 Anlace.*

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (7.00AM INSPECTION) SIS

12.40 FATHER CHRISTMAS FILLIES NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,198: 2m) (7 runners)

1 0 FRANK IRISH 18 G Thorner 10-12 L Harvey
2 0036 GAME DILEMMA 21 J Mullins 10-12 R Greene
3 JOY FOR LIFE R Strange 10-12 Mr M Rimell
4 430- LUCIA FORTE 286 K Bailey 10-12 S McNeill
5 4-23 SILVER SHRED 6 (BF,F) M Pipe 10-12 D Burrows (7)
6 12 SUPREME KELLYCARRA 36 (F) J Gifford 10-12 L Aspell (5)
7 030 VALLINGALE 29 Miss H Knight 10-12 G F Ryan (5)

9-4 Silver Shred, 5-2 Lucia Forte, 11-4 Supreme Kellycarra, 8-1 others.

1.10 LORD STALBRIDGE MEMORIAL GOLD CUP (Handicap chase: £7,165: 3m 1f 110yd) (7)

1 6-1U YORKSHIRE GALE 10 (D,G,S) J Gifford 9-11-10 L Aspell (5)
2 -11F SMITH'S BAND 24 (CD,BF,G,S) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-10 R Farrant
3 56-5 DONT TELL THE WIFE 12 (G,S) C Egerton 9-11-8 —
4 3-22 TOUREEN PRINCE 33 (G,S) Miss H Knight 12-11-3 Mr J Culloty (7)
5 321F DUHALLOW LODGE 13 (G,S) C Barwell 8-11-1 S McNeill
6 /43- CHRISTMAS GORSE 408 (S) D Stoddart 9-11-0 Mr M Rimell
7 -405 GNUS A BUCK 13 (B,C,D,F,G,S) D Elsworth 12-11-0 P Holley

2-1 Smith's Band, 5-2 Yorkshire Gale, 9-2 Dont Tell The Wife, 6-1 others.

1.40 WINCANTON GOLD CARD HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier: £5,471: 2m 6f) (21)

1 110- ALLEGATION 264 (V,D,G,S) M Pipe 5-12-0 Mr A Farrant (5)
2 0-2P ISLAND JEWEL 10 (D,S) J Bosley 7-11-4 M Bosley
3 021- TAOS 238 (F,S) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-1 S Joynes (7)
4 2P0- DO BE HAVE 287 (CD,G) Mrs J Pitman 7-10-6 R Farrant
5 00-0 GIVENTIME 24 (S) A Turnell 7-10-6 L Harvey
6 03-4 SENDAI 5 (F,G,S) J Gifford 9-10-5 L Aspell (5)
7 -1FF PEATSWOOD 10 (F,G,S) M Channon 7-10-2 S Lyons (3)
8 61F- TYRONE BRIDGE 370 (S) N Walker 9-10-0 Mr M Rimell
9 1120 RUNAWAY PETE 13 (F,G) M Pipe 5-10-0 Mr J Culloty (7)
10 -531 ROSINA MAE 39 (F,G) P Winkworth 6-10-0 Chris Webb (5)
11 2-U2 TOP CEES 17 (BF,G) Mrs J Ramsden 5-10-0 D Thomas (7)
12 503- KHATIR 243 (F,G,S) M Pipe 4-10-0 Miss S Vickery
13 3141 EVER SMILE 52 (CD,F) M Pipe 8-10-0 D Burrows (7)
14 530- SMUGGLER'S POINT 110F (F) R O'Sullivan 5-10-0 G F Ryan (5)
15 1/P FRENCH CHARMER 24 (G,S) J Gifford 10-10-0 S McNeill
16 /6P- TOP JAVALIN 238 (S) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 8-10-0 L Aspell (5)
17 5110 ELITE REG 42 (V,F,G,S) M Pipe 6-10-0 B Moore (7)
18 1211 PREENKA GIRL 5 (D,F,G,S) M Pipe 6-10-0 (6ex) Sophie Mitchell (5)
19 3/0- THERMAL WARRIOR 307 (S) J Old 7-10-0 Mr G Baines (7)
20 4161 TOUR LEADER 19 (F,G) R Buckler 6-10-0 G Supple (7)
21 -50P LANSDOWNE 34 (D,S) P Nicholls 7-10-0 M Griffiths (7)

5-1 Preenka Girl, 6-1 Rosina Mae, 7-1 Top Cees, 8-1 Taos, Elite Reg, 10-1 Ever Smile, Do Be Have, Allegation, 12-1 others

2.10 MID SEASON CHASE (£6,938: 2m 5f) (6)

1 P-22 GALES CAVALIER 31 (G,S) D Gandolfo 7-11-12 R Farrant
2 P-P5 MAD THYME 24 (CD,G,S) N Gaselee 8-11-4 Mr M Rimell
3 631B MAGSOOD 21 (V,D,F,G) J Mullins 10-11-4 R Greene
4 1F-4 OVER THE POLE 34 (BF,G) J Gifford 8-11-4 S McNeill
5 P/0 *FREDS MELODY 13 F Tucker 10-10-12* Chris Webb
6 P0/ KASHAN 568F (G) P Hayward 7-10-12 M Bosley

4-5 Gales Cavalier, 5-2 Over The Pole, 6-1 Mad Thyme, 12-1 Magsood, 33-1 Freds Melody, Kashan.

2.45 HARRY DUFOSEE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,496: 2m) (6)

1 600- LASATA 244 (D,G,S) P Hobbs 10-11-10 2nd pref
2 2112 THE CARROT MAN 21 (D,BF,F,G) P Winkworth 7-11-3 R Farrant
3 UF12 ZAJIRA 15 (D,F,G,S) P Eccles 5-11-2 Chris Webb (5)
4 5043 SUPER TACTICS 21 (D,G,S) R Alner 7-11-1 S McNeill
5 20-2 SOVEREIGN NICHE 25 (V,F,G,S) M Pipe 7-10-0 2nd pref
6 -302 EVENING RAIN 27 (D,F,G,S) R Hodges 9-10-0 Sophie Mitchell (5)

5-2 Zajira, 3-1 Sovereign Niche, The Carrot Man, 5-1 Lasata, 7-1 others.

3.15 STIRRUP CUP NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,198: 2m) (16)

1 3/5- FRONTAGER 491 C Egerton 5-12-0 Mr M Rimell
2 /41 CAWARRA BOY 27 (S) C James 7-11-11 2nd pref
3 F-02 *GENERAL TONIC 13 D Gandolfo 8-11-7* Sophie Mitchell (5)
4 1162 ANLACE 17 (D,F,G) S Mellor 6-11-4 Chris Webb (5)
5 66-4 NO NEAR MISS 25 (S) D Elsworth 5-11-2 2nd pref
6 -023 LUCAYAN CAY 34 (BF) Mrs J Pitman 4-11-0 R Farrant
7 5F26 CASPIAN BELUGA 25 S Knight 7-10-13 S Burrough
8 40-6 WHISPERING COURT 62 A Turnell 5-10-12 G Crone (7)
9 3321 DONTDRESSFORDINNER 14 (F,G) C Popham 5-10-11 S Lyons (3)
10 0-16 TAMANDU 25 (D,G) C James 5-10-11 S McNeill
11 -045 NEEDWOOD NATIVE 13 A J Wilson 7-10-0 L Harvey
12 6-6P WHAT'S THE JOKE 43 J Tuck 6-10-0 Mr A Mitchell (7)
13 006- URBAN LILY 231 R Hodges 5-10-0 L Aspell (5)
14 RP00 CARNIVAL KID 13 (B) K Bishop 5-10-0 R Greene
15 -460 DISTANT HOME 24 (B) A Jones 7-10-0 Mr J Culloty (7)
16 /P6- CELTIC EMERALD 356 R Eckley 7-10-0 2nd pref

4-1 Anlace, 5-1 No Near Miss, General Tonic, 6-1 Whispering Court, 7-1 Lucayan Cay, 8-1 Cawarra Boy, 12-1 others.

IN BRIEF

Scott puts Leopards in position to pounce

KENNY SCOTT, the 6ft 9in forward who has previously turned his back on the England basketball team, announced his arrival at the Leopards by notching 19 points in their 92-80 victory over Manchester Giants, and helping to push them into joint-second place in the Budweister League, four points behind London Towers.

Released by Towers after an operation in the summer, Scott put his recovery to the test with a fine display in the later stages as Giants raised their game. Birmingham Bullets were also on the receiving end, slumping 90-83 to Worthing Bears.

Dickson defeat

Tennis: Simon Dickson, of Stockport, failed to win the Orange Bowl for boys aged 14 and under — the world's biggest tournament for the age group — in Miami at the weekend. Dickson, claimed to be Great Britain's best prospect in a decade, was beaten 6-2, 6-1 by Olivier Rochus, of Belgium, the No 1 seed, in the final.

Ill wind

Yachting: Hopes for a time that would break the Sydney to Hobart racing classic record have faded with forecasts of light winds. The 630-mile test, one of the world's toughest ocean races, gets underway today with a 100-boat start in Sydney harbour. Sayonara, a 78ft Maxi, had been favourite to break the 20-year-old record of two days, 14hr 36min 56sec.

Tuur de force

Boxing: Regilio Tuur, of Holland, retained his World Boxing Organisation junior lightweight title with a points decision over his Italian challenger, Giorgio Campanella. It was the Dutchman's fourth successful defence.

Two for one

Golf: John Legarza and Tom Gabelman recorded holes-in-one on consecutive shots at the 16th hole at Dayton Valley Country Club in Nevada.



Mark Rypien, quarterback of the defeated St Louis Rams, is harried by Miami Dolphins players as he attempts to clear the ball

Falcons swoop on play-off slot

By Stuart Jones

THE Atlanta Falcons, though unable to prevent Jerry Rice from seizing personal glory, captured the principle honours during the closing weekend of the regular National Football League (NFL) season. Their improbable victory over San Francisco 49ers, the reigning champions, earned them a place in the play-offs.

They profited from the defeats inflicted elsewhere on their rivals, Minnesota Vikings and Chicago Bears, and from the accuracy of their Danish kicker and their reserve quarterback. Bobby Hebert, brought in for the injured Jeff George before the interval, threw the decisive touchdown pass with 95 seconds left.

Morten Andersen was no less responsible for securing the win by the narrowest margin, 28-27. He set an NFL record of converting eight field goals in excess of 50 yards in a season and his second, from 59 yards, was the fourth longest recorded.

In defeat, though, Rice enhanced his reputation as the finest wide receiver to have played the game. With another 153 yards, he raised his total for the season to 1,848, obliterating the record set by Charley Hennigan 34 years ago. His individual achievements in Atlanta were in vain, though, as the Falcons extended their season for the first time since 1991. On Sunday, they visit Green Bay Packers.

They beat Pittsburgh Steelers to clinch the central division of the National conference. The feat, in doubt until the final play in Wisconsin, represented a personal triumph for Brett Fevre, a quarterback comparatively unheralded four months ago.

He has already equalled the number of touchdown passes thrown in a season by a couple of renowned figures, George Blanda and a certain YA Tittle. With another two on Sunday to lift his total to 38, he stands alone behind Dan Marino, who was credited with 48 in 1984 and 46 two years later.

Marino had broken three quarterback records this season but the two touchdown passes he threw in Missouri were perhaps the most significant. They built the foundation of a comprehensive 41-22 victory over St Louis Rams which gave the erratic Miami Dolphins a play-off place.

They will go on Saturday to Buffalo Bills, who finished with an undistinguished home defeat. The only representative to gain from the 28-17 loss to Houston Oilers was Thurman Thomas, their running back. He joined Eric Dickerson and Barry Sanders in rushing for 1,000 yards for seven successive seasons.

Detroit Lions completed a spectacular finale, overwhelming Tampa Bay Buccaneers 37-10 to maintain an unbeaten sequence of seven games. Herman Moore, in catching his last pass, set an NFL record of 123 receptions for the season and will doubtless be the prime target again in Philadelphia on Sunday.

The Eagles yielded the eastern division title of the National conference to the Dallas Cowboys when they went down 20-14 in Chicago, but the Cowboys, as they entered the concluding fixture against Arizona Cardinals last night, still carried a huge incentive. A win would give them home advantage throughout the play-offs, a dispensation that would otherwise be granted to the 49ers.

San Diego Chargers, with 21 unanswered points in the second half against New York Giants, and Indianapolis Colts, with a late field goal, were the others to qualify for the play-offs. They meet each other on Sunday.

Play-off fixtures. Saturday: Buffalo Bills v Miami Dolphins; Philadelphia Eagles v Detroit Lions. Sunday: Green Bay Packers v Atlanta Falcons; San Diego Chargers v Indianapolis Colts.

TABLES AND RESULTS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
*Buffalo	10	6	0	625	350	335
†Indianapolis	9	7	0	563	331	316
†Miami	9	7	0	563	398	332
New England	6	10	0	375	294	377
NY Jets	3	13	0	188	233	384
Central						
*Pittsburgh	11	5	0	689	407	327
Cincinnati	7	9	0	438	349	374
Houston	7	9	0	438	348	324
Cleveland	5	11	0	313	289	356
Jacksonville	4	12	0	250	275	404
West						
*Kansas City	13	3	0	813	358	241
†San Diego	9	7	0	563	321	323
Seattle	8	8	0	500	363	366
Denver	8	8	0	500	388	345
Oakland	8	8	0	500	348	332

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
*Dallas	11	4	0	733	398	278
†Philadelphia	10	6	0	615	318	338
Washington	6	10	0	375	326	359
NY Giants	5	11	0	313	300	340
Arizona	4	11	0	267	262	385
Central						
*Green Bay	11	5	0	.689	404	314
†Detroit	10	6	0	625	436	336
Chicago	9	7	0	563	392	360
Minnesota	8	8	0	.500	412	385
Tampa Bay	7	9	0	438	238	335
West						
*San Francisco	11	5	0	.688	457	258
†Atlanta	9	7	0	563	362	349
St Louis	7	9	0	438	309	418
Carolina	7	9	0	438	289	325
New Orleans	7	9	0	438	319	348

* clinched division title † clinched play-off place

(does not include Arizona v Dallas last night)

RESULTS: Saturday: San Diego 27 New York Giants 17, Detroit 37 Tampa Bay 10; Indianapolis 10 New England 7. Sunday: Green Bay 24 Pittsburgh 19, Houston 28 Buffalo 17, Kansas City 26 Seattle 3, Jacksonville 24 Cleveland 21, Atlanta 28 San Francisco 27, Chicago 20 Philadelphia 14, New Orleans 12 New York Jets 0, Cincinnati 27 Minnesota 24, Washington 20 Carolina 17, Denver 31 Oakland 28, Miami 41 St Louis 22

Brazilians outdo burgers down by the Riverside

Ivo Tennant finds Middlesbrough Football Club catering for the fans, not the famished

One of the enduring images of the 1980s is of Mrs Thatcher, handbag and all, receding into wasteland somewhere in the North East of England. The Prime Minister was looking to encourage any manner of enterprise that would revitalise a desolate and neglected community.

Should she ever return, she could be forgiven for imagining that she had reached Cape Canaveral. Out of that same wasteland rises a lunar edifice that passes as Middlesbrough Football Club. Baroness Thatcher, no lover of football or the individuals who ran it in her time, would nevertheless approve of a business that has such appeal that there is not the slightest difficulty in selling it to the populace.

Each year, the dip in attendances on the last Saturday before Christmas is explained by the need for last-minute shopping. At the Cellnet Stadium — the very name reflects a drive for business rather than romance — they have scant difficulty putting bottoms on seats. The attendance for the FA Carling Premiership match against West Ham United on Saturday, 28,640, was only 847 below the highest there this season; and they all looked to arrive on time.

The signposting, or lack of it, was much criticised when the first match was staged there in August. Better, then, to travel by train. The Cellnet Stadium — also known as the *Riverside Stadium to* provide a more homely feel — is 15 minutes' walk from Middlesbrough station. Even over that short distance, a continuing lack of prosperity is evident. Until, that is, one reaches this futuristic apparition that appears to stand on steel stilts.

The supporter waiting to go in ahead of me was in a wheelchair. Asked whether the facilities were good enough for the disabled, he replied: "They could do more." I joined him in his lift to a kind of forecourt where supporters milled around in front of television sets showing highlights from Middlesbrough's previous matches and eating the revolting food that is to be found on every football ground, ancient or modern. He had a job to wheel his way through.

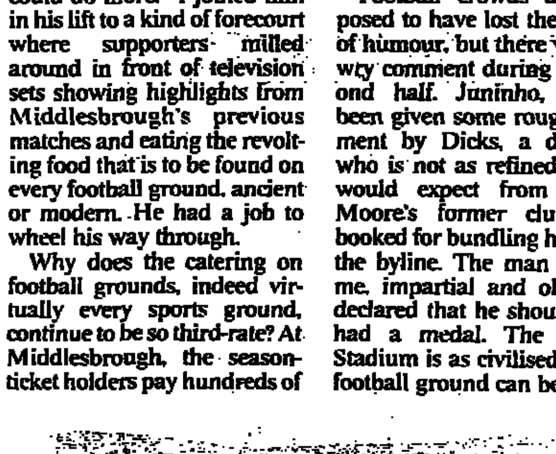
Why does the catering on football grounds, indeed virtually every sports ground, continue to be so third-rate? At Middlesbrough, the season-ticket holders pay hundreds of pounds to watch Juninho, the Brazilian forward, which says much for their taste, and before or after the match spend a nominal sum on a horrible hamburger. An artist — and Juninho truly is one — merits greater aestheticism.

As befits a new ground, the vantage points are excellent. In the past, the first priority was to obtain a position where one was least likely to be duffed up. Now, it is to escape the hamburger smells. The loudspeaker message on discipline was straightforward and stentorian: "Anyone running on to the pitch is liable to be arrested or have his season-ticket confiscated." There was no cheap, glitzy Yuletide message. Indeed, the only concession to Christmas came in the form of stewards rather pathetically dressed in red-and-white bobble-hats and, on the pitch, somebody in a lion suit with tinsel round the mane greeting the players.

There is not quite the roar of St James' Park, that other revitalised North East ground, but the hum is all-pervading. For a relatively small club still feeling its way in the Premiership, the signing of Juninho was a terrific coup. "Cold, raining and somewhere in the North," was his initial assessment of Middlesbrough, and pretty accurate it was, too. The one minus point on Saturday afternoon — other than the refreshments — was the necessity to spend a static two hours out of doors.

Juninho alone was worth the £14 seat price. He made Middlesbrough's first two goals in a 4-2 win through a superb sidefooted pass and then a brilliant flick and run, and enthused the crowd with his every touch. West Ham, once the academy, the club of fancy flicks and sweet sherries, had none even remotely to compare.

Football crowds are supposed to have lost their sense of humour, but there was one wry comment during the second half. Juninho, having been given some rough treatment by Dicks, a defender who is not as refined as one would expect from Bobby Moore's former club, was booked for bundling him over the byline. The man next to me, impartial and objective, declared that he should have had a medal. The Cellnet Stadium is as civilised as any football ground can be.



POOLS FORECAST

Saturday December 30

Coupon No. fixture, forecast

FA PREMIERSHIP

1 Arsenal v Wimbledon 1
2 A Villa v Sheff Wed X
3 Blackburn v Tott'ham 1
4 Bolton v Coventry 1
5 Chelsea v Liverpool 2
6 Everton v Leeds 1
7 Man Utd v QPR 1
8 Nott'm F v Middl'bro 2
9 South'pton v Man C 2
10 W Ham v Newcastle 2

FIRST DIVISION

11 Barnsley v WBA X
12 Charlton v Southend 1
13 C Palace v Grimsby 2
14 Hudd'field v Stoke X
15 Leicester v Oldham 1
16 Norwich v Reading 1
17 Port Vale v Luton 1
18 Sheff Utd v Millwall X
19 Sunderl'd v Birm'h'm X
20 Tranmere v Ipswich 2
21 Watford v Derby 2
22 Wolves v Portsmouth 1

SECOND DIVISION

23 Blackpool v Swansea 1
24 Brentf'd v Wycombe 2
25 Bristol C v Bristol R 1
26 Chest'f'ld v Walsall 1
27 Crewe v Peterboro 1
28 Hull v Brighton 2
29 Oxford v Notts Co X
30 Roth'ham v Bradford 1
31 Shr'sbury v Carlisle 1
32 Stockport v Wrexham 2
33 Swindon v Burnley 1
34 York v Bourn'm'th X

THIRD DIVISION

35 Barnet v Torquay X
36 Cambr'ge v Fulham 1
37 Cardiff v Wigan 1
38 Colch'ter v Scarboro 1
39 Darl'gton v Preston 2
40 Exeter v Chester 2
41 Gill'gham v Mansf'ld 1
42 Hartlep'l v Hereford 1
43 Lincoln v Leyton O X
44 North'pton v Plym'th 2
45 Rochdale v Bury 1
46 Scunth'pe v Donc'ter X

SCOTTISH PREMIER

47 Falkirk v Moth'well 1
48 Hearts v Celtic 2
49 Kilm'nock v Aberdeen X
50 Raith v Partick 1
51 Rangers v Hibernian 1

SCOTTISH FIRST

52 Dumb'ton v Dundee 2
53 Dundee U v Airdrie 1
54 Morton v Dunf'mline X
55 Hamilton v St Mirren 1
56 St J'ston v Clydeb'k 1

SCOTTISH SECOND

57 Berwick v Ayr 1
58 Clyde v Q of South 1
Not on coupons: East Fife v Stirling Albion, Montrose v Stranraer, Stenhousemuir v Forfar Athletic

SCOTTISH THIRD

Not on coupons. Alloa Athletic v Cowdenbeath, Arbroath v Albion Rovers, Livingston (Meadowbank Thistle) v Caledonian Thistle, Queen's Park v Ross County

DRAWS (home teams): Aston Villa, Barnsley, Huddersfield, Sheffield United, Sunderland, Oxford, York, Barnet, Lincoln, Scunthorpe, Kilmarnock, Greenock Morton. BEST DRAWS: Barnsley, Huddersfield, Sheffield United, Oxford, Lincoln. AWAYS. Liverpool, Newcastle, Grimsby, Derby, Wrexham. HOMES. Arsenal, Manchester United, Port Vale, Wolves, Bristol City, Crewe, Cambridge, Cardiff, Gillingham, Rochdale, Berwick, Clyde.

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Arsenal, Port Vale, Wolves, Crewe, Gillingham. Aways: Newcastle, Grimsby, Plymouth. Draws: Sheffield United, Oxford, Lincoln.

☐ Vince Wright

FOR THE RECORD

CRICKET

AUCKLAND (fourth one-day international, Pakistan won toss): New Zealand beat Pakistan by 32 runs

NEW ZEALAND

C J Spearman c Basit b Mushtaq	48
B A Young c Rashid b Aqib	15
S P Fleming c Wasim b Sohail	38
A C Parore b Waqar	42
C L Cairns c Wasim b Waqar	11
R G Twose b Waqar	41
N J Astle not out	20
*†L K Germon b Wasim	5
D N Patel lbw b Waqar	1
G R Larsen not out	3
Extras (lb 11, w 6, nb 3)	20
Total (8 wkts, 45 overs)	244

FALL OF WICKETS 1-28, 2-88, 3-132, 4-148, 5-207, 6-214, 7-222, 8-223

BOWLING: Wasim 9-0-27-1, Aqib 6-0-28-1, Waqar 9-0-70-3, Mushtaq 7-0-39-1, Sohail 9-0-42-2; Salim Malik 5-0-27-0

PAKISTAN

Aamir Sohail c Patel b Cairns	37
Ramiz Raja c Cairns b Astle	46
Saleem Elahi run out	7
Inzamam-ul-Haq c sub b Astle	17
Salim Malik b Astle	58
Basit Ali run out	0
*Wasim Akram c Astle b Morrison	4
†Rashid Latif b Larsen	3
Mushtaq Ahmed b Larsen	16
Waqar Younis c Young b Twose	5
Aqib Javed not out	12
Extras (lb 5, w 2)	7
Total (41.4 overs)	212

FALL OF WICKETS 1-56, 2-89, 3-109, 4-117, 5-118, 6-125, 7-146, 8-188, 9-196

BOWLING: Morrison 6-0-22-1, Patel 4-0-26-0, Cairns 7-0-38-1, Larsen 9-0-42-2, Twose 7.4-0-37-1, Astle 8-0-42-3

Series result: New Zealand 2 Pakistan 2

TOUR MATCH: Brisbane. Australia XI 323-7 dec (G Blewett 115) and 17-0. West Indians 325 (Blewett 4-59). Match drawn.

FOOTBALL

LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Sligo 2 UCD 0

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Mechelen 2 Saint-Truiden 0; Ghent 1 Cercle Bruges 5; Lommel 0 Lierse 0; Antwerp 1 Molenbeek 1; Beveren 1 Charleroi 1; Anderlecht 4 Ekeren 2

DUTCH LEAGUE: Fortuna Sittard 0 Groningen 0; De Graafschap Doetinchem 5 Sparta Rotterdam 2; Roda JC Kerkrade 0 Vitesse Arnhem 1; Willem II Tilburg 1 Go Ahead Eagles Deventer 2; RKC Waalwijk 2 Heerenveen 3; Feyenoord 1 Twente Enschede 0; Ajax 3 Nijmegen 1

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Cremonese 1 Torino 1; Fiorentina 2 AC Milan 2; Internazionale 4 Cagliari 0; Juventus 0 Roma 2; Lazio 5 Atalanta 1; Padova 1 Piacenza 1; Parma 0 Vicenza 1; Udinese 1 Bari 2; Sampdoria 2 Napoli 2

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Felgueiras 1 Benfica 2; Sporting Lisbon 4 Gil Vicente 1; Belenenses 4 Desportivo Chaves 1; Estrela Amadora 1 Leca 0; Salgueiros Porto 0 Sporting Braga 0; Maritimo Funchal 3 Campomaiorense 0; Uniao Leiria 1 Farense 0; Tirsense 1 Boavista 2; Guimaraes 0 FC Porto 2

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby 105 (Samuels 21, Meakin 20, Humphrey 19) Newcastle 82 (Saunders 21, Paterson 20, Bale 11); Manchester 80 (Robinson 22, Beason 16; St Fins 12) Leopards 92 (Baker 26, Youngblood 19, Fite 16); Birmingham 83 (Dorsey 22, Lloyd 20, Gordon 19) Worthing 90 (Irish 32, Cunningham 28, Bailey 12); Hemel Hempstead 83 (Schultz 27, Siemon 26, Pringle 8) Doncaster 88 (Ratiff 25, Eccles 24, Mellor 16); Thames Valley 92 (Holley 24, Scantlebury 21, Miller 18) Chester 87 (Boone 34, Peers 11, Mullings, Ogley 10)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Friday: Indiana 90 Dallas 79; Boston 114 Minnesota 113; Milwaukee 99 Philadelphia 94; Detroit 84 Miami 75; Atlanta 94 New Jersey 91; Orlando 111 New York 90; Chicago 113 Toronto 104; Phoenix 101 Vancouver 80; LA Lakers 116 Sacramento 83; Golden State 132 Washington 117. Saturday: Charlotte 87 Miami 75; Cleveland 97 Indiana 96; Orlando 94 Detroit 79; New York 103 Toronto 91; New Jersey 98 Philadelphia 85; Minnesota 111 Dallas 98; Chicago 100 Utah 86; San Antonio 110 Houston 95; LA Clippers 107 Denver 92; Milwaukee 115 Atlanta 111; LA Lakers 102 Portland 99; Seattle 118 Washington 100

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday: Montreal 4 Pittsburgh 2; Boston 3 Buffalo 2 (OT); Hartford 3 NY Rangers 3; Washington 6 Edmonton 3; Colorado 2 St Louis 1; Detroit 5 Calgary 1; San Jose 4 Los Angeles 3; Vancouver 6 Anaheim 2. Saturday: Boston 7 Tampa Bay 5; Philadelphia 3 Hartford 3 (OT); NY Islanders 3 Washington 1; Florida 2 New Jersey 1; Montreal 1 Pittsburgh 0; Toronto 6 Edmonton 1; Winnipeg 2 St Louis 1; Chicago 2 Dallas 0; Buffalo 4 Ottawa 2; Colorado 2 Los Angeles 2 (OT); Detroit 1 Vancouver 0.

LACROSSE

SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY LEAGUE: Premier division: Cheadle 8 Stockport 4; Boardman and Eccles 16 Poynton 7; Mellor 7 Heaton Mersey 5; Cheadle Hulme 13 Old Waconians 12; Timperley 12 Hulmeians 3

RUGBY UNION

FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool one: Bayonne 15 Toulouse 25; Nice 22 Grenoble 11; Toulon 14 Narbonne 9; Perpignan 40 Racing Club 15; Agen 44 Nimes 6. Pool two: Castres 12 Brive 20; Begles-Bordeaux 13 Dax 33; Bourgoin 83 Montpellier 6; Colomiers 73 Rumilly 10; Pau 23 Montferrand 18

ITALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Benetton Treviso 78 Mirano 16; Roma 34 L'Aquila 13; San Donà 19 Petrarca Padova 9; Amatori Catania 18 Milan 39; Livorno 27 Piacenza 20; Calvisano 25 Rovigo 14

TENNIS

MIAMI BEACH, Florida: Orange Bowl championships: Finals: Boys: 18 and under: Singles: M Zabaleta (Arg) bt T Haas (Ger) 6-2, 3-6, 6-1. 14 and under: Singles: O Rochus (Bel) bt S Dickson (GB) 6-2, 6-1. Girls: 18 and under: Singles: A Koumikova (Russ) bt S Nacuk (Yug) 6-3, 6-2

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*
Pools coupon numbers in brackets

FA Carling Premiership

(1) Arsenal v QPR (12.0)
(2) Aston Villa v Liverpool
( ) Blackburn v Manchester C (8.0)
(3) Chelsea v Wimbledon (12.0)
(4) Everton v Middlesbrough
(5) Nottingham Forest v Sheffield Wed
(6) * Soton v Tottenham (12.0)
(7) West Ham v Coventry (12.0)

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division

(8) Barnsley v Stoke (12.0)
(9) Charlton v Portsmouth (12.0)
(10) Crystal Palace v Luton (12.0)
(11) * Huddersfield v Derby
(—) * Leicester v Ipswich (11.30)
(12) Norwich v Southend
(13) Port Vale v West Brom (12.0)
(14) Sheffield U v Birmingham (12.0)
(15) Sunderland v Grimsby
(16) Tranmere v Oldham
(—) Watford v Reading (11.30)
(17) Wolverhampton v Millwall

Second division

(18) * Blackpool v Burnley
(19) Brentford v Brighton (12.0)
(20) Bristol City v Swansea
(21) Chesterfield v Peterborough
(22) Crewe v Wrexham
(23) Hull v Notts County
(24) Oxford Utd v Bournemouth
(25) Rotherham v Walsall
(26) Shrewsbury v Bristol Rov (12.0)
(27) Stockport v Carlisle (12.0)
(28) Swindon v Wycombe
(29) York v Bradford

Third division

(30) Barnet v Mansfield (1.0)
(31) Cambridge Utd v Wigan
(32) Cardiff v Chester
(33) Colchester v L Orient (12.0)
(34) Darlington v Doncaster
(—) Exeter v Torquay (11.0)
(35) Gillingham v Plymouth
(36) Hartlepool v Scarborough
(37) Lincoln v Fulham
(38) Northampton v Hereford
(39) * Rochdale v Preston
(40) Scunthorpe v Bury

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards v Bangor; Cliftonville v Crusaders; Glentoran v Linfield; Portadown v Glenavon

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Derry v Bohemians (2.45); Shamrock v Dundalk (2.15)

Vauxhall Conference

(—) Bath v Farnborough
(—) B'grove v Kidderminstr (11.30)
(—) Dover v Welling (11.30)
(—) Gateshead v Morecambe
(—) Halifax v Southport
(—) Hednesford v Kettering
(—) Macclesfield v Telford
(—) Northwich v Altrincham
(—) Slough v Stevenage
(—) Stalybridge v Runcorn
(—) Woking v Dagenham and Red

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(41) Falkirk v Aberdeen P
(42) Hearts v Motherwell
(43) Partick v Hibernian
(44) Raith v Celtic
(45) Rangers v Kilmarnock

First division

(46) Airdrie v St Mirren
(47) Clydebank v Dundee P
(48) Dumbarton v Dunfermline
(49) Dundee Utd v Hamilton
(50) St Johnstone v G'nock Morton

Second division

(51) Ayr v Clyde
(52) Forfar v East Fife
(53) Queen of South v S'housemuir
(54) Stranraer v Berwick

Third division

(55) Brechin v Alloa (2.0) P
(56) Cowdenbeath v East Stirling
(57) Livingston v Queen's Park
(58) Ross County v Arbroath

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v VS Rugby (11.0); Baldock v Rushden and Diamonds; Chelmsford v Gravesend and Northfleet (11.30); Cheltenham v Gloucester; Crawley v Hastings; Dorchester v Salisbury; Gresley v Burton (11.30); Halesowen v Worcester; Ilkeston v Stafford (12.0); Newport AFC v Merthyr (11.0); Sudbury Town v Cambridge City. Midland division: Bedworth v Dudley Town (12.0); Bury Town v King's Lynn; Corby v Grantham (12.0); Evesham v Redditch (11.30); Hinckley Town v Leicester United (11.0); Moor Green v Solihull (12.0); Paget R v Sutton Coldfield (11.0); RC Warwick v Bilston (12.0); Rothwell v Buckingham Town (11.30); Stourbridge v Bridgnorth (11.30); Tamworth v Nuneaton (11.0). Southern division: Ashford v Tonbridge Angels (11.30); Braintree v Erith and Belvedere (11.15); Cinderford v Forest Green (11.30); Fisher 93 v Witney; Fleet Town v Fareham; Havant v Waterlooville (11.30); Margate v Sittingbourne; Newport IoW v Bashley (12.0); Poole v Weymouth; Weston-super-Mare v Clevedon (11.0); Yate v Trowbridge (11.30)

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop's Stortford v Hitchin; Chertsey v Kingstonian; Dulwich v Bromley; Enfield v Aylesbury (11.30); Hayes v Harrow (11.15); Hendon v Yeading (11.30); Purfleet v Grays (11.0); St Albans v Boreham Wood (11.0); Sutton United v Carshalton (11.30); Walton and Hersham v Molesey (11.0); Worthing v Yeovil. First division: Abingdon Town v Maidenhead United (11.30); Aldershot Town v Basingstoke; Barton Rovers v Marlow (11.30); Billericay v Barking (11.30); Chesham v Berkhamsted (11.0); Leyton Pennant v Heybridge Swifts (11.0); Ruislip Manor v Wembley (11.30); Staines v Wokingham; Thame v Oxford City; Whyteleafe v Uxbridge (11.30). Second division: Banstead v Croydon (11.0); Canvey Island v Collier Row (12.0); Edgware v Chalfont St Peter; Egham v Bracknell (11.0); H Hempstead v Bedford Town; Leatherhead v Dorking (11.30); Tilbury v Saffron Walden; Witham v Wivenhoe (11.0). Third division: Leighton v Tring (11.0); Lewes v Horsham (11.0); Northwood v Harefield (11.30); Southall v Wingate and Finchley; Windsor and Eton v Flackwell Heath (11.0)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bamber Bridge v Accrington Stanley; Barrow v Blyth Spartans; Bishop Auckland v Spennymoor; Buxton v Matlock; Droylsden v Knowsley; Emley v Frickley; Gainsborough v Boston; Guiseley v Chorley; Leek v Hyde; Marine v Colwyn Bay; Winsford v Witton. First division: Curzon Ashton v Ashton United; Eastwood Town v Bradford Park Avenue; Farsley Celtic v Harrogate Town; Gretna v Great Harwood; Lancaster v Netherfield; Radcliffe v Leigh; Warrington v Congleton; Workington v Fleetwood; Worksop v Alfreton

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Caersws; Bangor City v Holywell; Barry v Ebbw Vale; Briton Ferry v Inter Cardiff; Flint Town v Conwy; Newtown v Connah's Quay; Rhyl v Llansantffraid; Ton Pentre v Cwmbran

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers v Basildon U (11.0); Brentwood v Romford (11.0); Concord v Hullbridge Sports (11.0); Great Wakering v Southend Manor (11.0); Maldon v Burnham Ramblers (11.0); Stansted v Sawbridgeworth (11.30)

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Barnstaple; Brislington v Backwell; Bristol Manor Farm v Mangotsfield (11.0); Chippenham v Calne; Elmore v Tiverton; Frome v Paulton; Odd Down v Westbury

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Clacton v Harwich and Parkeston (11.0); Diss v Watton (11.0); Great Yarmouth v Lowestoft (11.0); Haverhill v Halstead (11.0); March v Wisbech (11.0); Newmarket v Soham (11.0); Stowmarket v Hadleigh U (11.0); Sudbury Wanderers v Sudbury Town Res (11.0); Tiptree v Cornard (11.0); Woodbridge v Felixstowe (11.0); Wroxham v Fakenham (11.0)

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Aerostructures v Eastleigh (11.0); Totton v BAT (11.0); Andover v Thatcham; Bournemouth v Christchurch (11.30); Brockenhurst v Lymington (11.0); Downton v Bemerton Heath (11.0); East Cowes Vics v Cowes Sports; Gosport v Whitchurch (11.0); Swanage and Herston v Wimborne (11.0)

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Burgess Hill v Hassocks (11.0); Crowborough v Ringmer (11.0); Hailsham v Eastbourne Town (11.0); Horsham YMCA v Mile Oak (11.0); Langney Sports v Stamco (11.0); Peacehaven and Telscombe v Whitehawk (11.0); Portfield v Pagham (11.0); Shoreham v Southwick (11.0); Three Bridges v Oakwood (11.0); Wick v Arundel (11.0)

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Crockenhill (11.0); Dartford v Furness (11.0); Deal v Canterbury (11.30); Folkestone Invicta v Ramsgate (11.30); Sheppey v Chatham (12.0)

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cogenhoe v Northampton Spencer (11.0); Eynesbury v St Neots (11.0); Holbeach v Boston (11.30); Kempston v Wootton (11.0); Newport Pagnell v Long Buckby (11.0); Raunds v Wellingborough (11.0); Spalding v Bourne (11.0); Stamford v Mirrlees Blackstone; S and L Corby v Desborough (11.0); Stotfold v Potton (11.0)

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Barwell v Hinckley Athletic (11.0); Blakenhall v Rushall O (11.0); Boldmere St M v Chasetown (11.0); Bolehall S v Shifnal T (11.0); Halesowen H v Oldbury U (11.0); Rocester v Knypersley V (11.0); Sandwell v West Mid Police (11.0); Shepshed D v Stapenhill (11.0); Stratford T v Pershore T (11.0)

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch Villa v Studley BKL (11.30); Ansells v Bloxwich (11.30); Coleshill v Chelmsley (11.30); Handrahan Timbers v West Midland Fire Service (11.30); King's Heath v Knowle (11.30); Massey Ferguson v Coventry Sphinx (11.30); Northfield v Highgate (11.30); Olton Royale v Shirley (11.30); Southam v Wellesbourne (11.30)

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Brierley Hill T v Lye Town (11.0); Cradley Town v Hill Top R (11.0); Darlaston v Wednesfield (11.0); Ludlow T v Stourport S (11.0); Malvern T v Westfields (11.0); Gornal A v Tividale (11.0); Pelsall V v Bloxwich S (11.0); Stafford T v Wolverhampton C (11.0); Walsall Wood v Lichfield C (11.0)

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashfield v Hucknall (12.30); Denaby v Maltby MW (11.0); Hallam v Stocksbridge PS (11.0); Ossett Albion v Hatfield Main

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Bootle v Maine Road (2.30); Clitheroe v Blackpool Rovers; Eastwood H v Kidsgrove (11.0); Glossop North End v Flixton; Holker Old Boys v Penrith; Nantwich v Newcastle Town (12.0); Rossendale v Darwen (1.0); St Helens v Prescot (1.0); Salford v Chadderton; Skelmersdale v Burscough; Trafford v Mossley

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

Club matches

Aberavon v Cardiff Inst
Aspatria v Wigton (2.0)
Bedford v Bedfordshire (3.0)
Birmingham Sol v Silhillians (11.0)
Camborne v Redruth
Cardiff v Pontypridd
Cheltenham v Stroud
Exeter v President's XV (3.0)
Gloucester v Lydney (3.0)
High Wycombe v Chairmen's XV
Llanelli v London Welsh
London Irish v Old Millhillians (3.0)
Maesteg v Bridgend
Moseley v Coventry (3.0)
Neath v Bonymaen
Newport v Bristol
Northampton v Stirling County (3.0)
Northern v Newcastle
Otley v Leeds (2.15)
Penarth v Old Penarthians (11.0)
Pontypool Utd v Pontypool
Preston Grasshoppers v Fylde (2.15)
Sale v Broughton Park (3.0)
Treorchy v Penygraig
West Hartlepool v Hartlepool Rovers (3.0)
Wharfedale v North Ribblesdale

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Stones Championship

Bradford v Halifax
Leeds v Castleford (11.30)
Oldham v Warrington
Wigan v St Helens

First division

Batley v Dewsbury (12.30)
Featherstone v Wakefield (11.30)
Keighley v Rochdale (3.15)
Widnes v Salford

Second division

Carlisle v Barrow (2.0)
Chorley v Highfield
Hull KR v York (2.30)
Hunslet v Bramley (3.30)
Swinton v Leigh

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Manchester United v Newcastle United (8.0), Bolton Wanderers v Leeds United (8.0).

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: Leicester v Barbarians (2.45)

SRU UNDER-21 INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP: Glasgow v Edinburgh (at Murrayfield, 7.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

BURTONWOOD BREWERY LANCASHIRE CUP: Final: Woolston v Saddleworth (Warrington, 7.30)

OTHER SPORT

DARTS: WDC championship (Circus Tavern, Purfleet)

RACING: Kempton (12.40); Chepstow (12.20); Edinburgh (12.35); Leicester (12.55); Wetherby (1.0)

SNOOKER: Dr Martens European League (Diamond Centre, Irthlingborough)

THURSDAY

DARTS: WDC championship (Circus Tavern, Purfleet)

RACING: Carlisle (1.0); Plumpton (1.05); Stratford (1.10); Taunton (12.50)

SNOOKER: Dr Martens European League (Diamond Centre, Irthlingborough)

FRIDAY

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Worthing v Newcastle (8.0)

DARTS: WDC championship (Circus Tavern, Purfleet)

RACING: Fontwell (1.1?), Newbury (1.0); Newcastle (12.50); Warwick (12.45)

SNOOKER: Dr Martens European League (Diamond Centre, Irthlingborough)

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Arsenal v Wimbledon; Aston Villa v Sheffield Wednesday; Blackburn v Tottenham; Bolton v Coventry; Chelsea v Liverpool; Everton v Leeds; Manchester Utd v Queens Park Rangers; Nottingham Forest v Middlesbrough; Southampton v Manchester City; West Ham v Newcastle

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley v West Bromwich; Charlton v Southend; Crystal Palace v Grimsby; * Huddersfield v Stoke; Leicester v Oldham; Norwich v Reading; Port Vale v Luton; Sheffield Utd v Millwall; Sunderland v Birmingham; Tranmere v Ipswich; Watford v Derby; Wolverhampton v Portsmouth. Second division: Blackpool v Swansea; Brentford v Wycombe; Bristol City v Bristol Rovers; Chesterfield v Walsall; Crewe v Peterborough; Hull v Brighton; Oxford Utd v Notts County; Rotherham v Bradford; Shrewsbury v Carlisle; Stockport v Wrexham; Swindon v Burnley; York v Bournemouth. Third division: Barnet v Torquay; Cambridge Utd v Fulham; Cardiff v Wigan; Colchester v Scarborough; Darlington v Preston; Exeter v Chester; Gillingham v Mansfield; Hartlepool v Hereford; Lincoln v Leyton Orient; Northampton v Plymouth; Rochdale v Bury; Scunthorpe v Doncaster

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Bath v Macclesfield; Dagenham and Redbridge v Bromsgrove; Farnborough v Altrincham; Gateshead v Southport; Kettering v Northwich; Kidderminster v Halifax; Runcorn v Morecambe; Slough v Stalybridge; Stevenage v Dover; Telford v Woking; Welling v Hednesford

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Falkirk v Motherwell; Hearts v Celtic; Kilmarnock v Aberdeen; Raith v Partick; Rangers v Hibernian. First division: Dumbarton v Dundee; Dundee Utd v Airdrie; Greenock Morton v Dunfermline; Hamilton v St Mirren; St Johnstone v Clydebank. Second division: Berwick v Ayr; Clyde v Queen of South; East Fife v Stirling; Montrose v Stranraer; Stenhousemuir v Forfar. Third division: Alloa v Cowdenbeath; Arbroath v Albion; Livingston v Caledonian Thistle; Queen's Park v Ross County (2.0)

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

HEINEKEN CUP: Semi-finals: Leinster v Cardiff (Lansdowne Road, 1.30); Toulouse v Swansea (Les Sept-Deniers, 2.0)

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Gloucester v Bath (3.0); Leicester v Sale (3.0); Orrell v Saracens; Wasps v Harlequins (3.0); West Hartlepool v Bristol (3.0). Second division: London Irish v London Scottish (3.0); Moseley v Northampton (3.0); Nottingham v Newcastle (3.0); Wakefield v Blackheath; Waterloo v Bedford (2.15)

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: First division: Aberavon v Neath; Bridgend v Newport; Llanelli v Ebbw Vale; Pontypridd v Newbridge; Treorchy v Abertillery. Second division: Abercynon v Llanharan; Bonymaen v Caerphilly; Cross Keys v Maesteg; Dunvant v Llandovery; Pontypool v South Wales Police; Ystradgynlais v Tenby United

CLUB MATCHES: Askeans v Sutton and Epsom; Berry Hill v Worcester; Broughton Park v Morley; Camberley v Havant (2.15); Clifton v Weston-super-Mare (3.0); Coventry v Warwickshire (3.0); Fylde v Lichfield; Harrogate v Bradford and Bingley (2.15); Henley v Reading; High Wycombe v Ruislip; Kendal v Keighley (2.15); Leeds v Middlesbrough (2.15); Liverpool St Helens v Winnington Park; London Welsh v Richmond (2.15); Lydney v Nuneaton; Otley v Sandal (2.15); Redruth v St Ives; Rosslyn Park v Exeter; Rotherham v Huddersfield; Rugby v Birmingham Solihull (3.0); Walsall v Stourbridge; Waterloo v Bedford (2.15).

RUGBY LEAGUE

REGAL TROPHY: Semi-final: St Helens v Warrington (3.0)

STONES CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Wakefield v Batley (2.30); Whitehaven v Widnes (3.0). Second division: Barrow v Chorley (2.30); Bramley v Hull KR (1.0); Doncaster v Hunslet (1.30); Leigh v Carlisle (3.0); York v Swinton (1.0)

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: International cross country meeting (Durham)

BADMINTON: Friends Provident Grand Slam (Portsmouth)

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Derby v Worthing (8.0); Doncaster v Sheffield (7.0); Hemel v Newcastle (7.30)

DARTS: WDC championship (Circus Tavern, Purfleet)

RACING: Newbury (12.40); Catterick (1.0); Folkestone (12.50); Nottingham (12.45); (AW 7.0)

SNOOKER: Dr Martens European League (Diamond Centre, Irthlingborough)

SUNDAY

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES CHAMPIONSHIP: Castleford v Sheffield Eagles (3.30); Halifax v Oldham Bears (3.0); St Helens v Leeds (3.0); Warrington v Wigan (12.0). First division: Dewsbury v Huddersfield (3.0); Hull v Keighley Cougars (3.15); Salford Reds v Featherstone Rovers (3.0)

OTHER SPORT

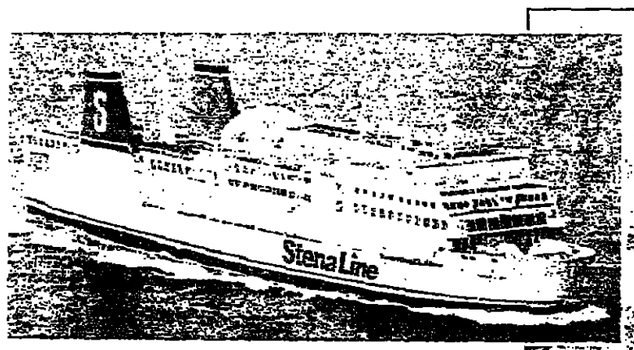
DARTS: WDC championship (Circus Tavern, Purfleet)

ENJOY A THREE-DAY SHORT BREAK FROM JUST £39 FOR UP TO FIVE PEOPLE AND A CAR

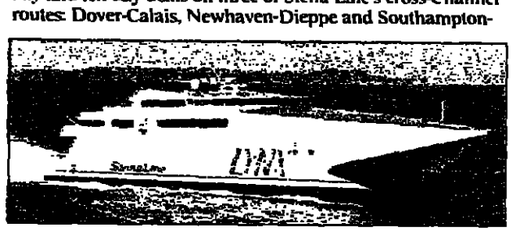
Great French winter breaks

Stena Line

Bargain fares from one of the top names in ferry travel



The Times, in association with Stena Line, formerly Stena Sealink, is offering unbeatable rates for motorists on short breaks to France. We have arranged special three-day, five-day and ten-day deals on three of Stena Line's cross-Channel routes: Dover-Calais, Newhaven-Dieppe and Southampton-Cherbourg. Prices start at £39 for a car and up to five passengers. Foot passengers can travel for only £5 return. For a longer break you can take advantage of a ten-day return from only £69 for a car and two people.



The offer gives you a choice of up to 25 sailings a day in winter from Dover to Calais to provide the greatest flexibility for your journey plans.

For an extra £15, you can take the high-speed Stena Lynx catamaran from Dover, crossing to Calais in just 45 minutes (from February 13, 1996) or the Stena Lynx from Newhaven to Dieppe crossing in just two hours and 15 minutes (starting February 29, 1996).

Excellent on-board shopping facilities are available with the Duty Free shops on all Stena Line vessels offering great bargains on scent, spirits, tobacco and gifts.



THREE-DAY RETURNS

Car and up to five people from £39

Routes: Dover-Calais, Newhaven-Dieppe, Southampton-Cherbourg

It may be winter but you will find plenty to do on a three-day break to France: drive to Reims for a Champagne-country break; cross to Cherbourg for a tour through Normandy's glorious scenery; visit the pretty Belgian town of Antwerp, just hours from Calais; or enjoy an excellent-value weekend in the romantic city of Paris — the possibilities are endless. Special rates have been negotiated for overnight stays at Campanile hotels, see panel right.



3-day return — December 29 – April 3	
By Superferry – car and up to 5 people (inc driver)	£39
Additional passengers/Foot passengers	£5
Saturday departure (from Dover/Newhaven)	£10 supplement
Friday departure (from Southampton)	£10 supplement
By Stena Lynx (from Dover/Newhaven)	£15 supplement
Foot passengers by Stena Lynx	£10

Cabin or restchair accommodation compulsory on Southampton-Cherbourg overnight crossings: 2-berth inside cabin £25, reclining seat £5

FIVE-DAY RETURNS

Car and up to five people from £49

Routes: Dover-Calais, Newhaven-Dieppe, Southampton-Cherbourg



This five-day return gives you up to 120 hours away. A leisurely tour of Normany from Dieppe, allows you to visit the historic port of Honfleur, the golf courses of Deauville, or the famous tapestries at Bayeux. From Cherbourg you could head for Britanny and visit the abbey with its soaring spires perched on the tiny islet town of Mont St Michel, or continue along the coast to St Malo, Dinard or the typical Breton town of Dinan with its cobbled streets, castle and museum.

5-day return — December 29 – April 3	
By Superferry – car and up to 5 people (inc driver)	£49
Additional passengers/Foot passengers	£5
Saturday departure (from Dover/Newhaven)	£10 supplement
Friday departure (from Southampton)	£10 supplement
By Stena Lynx (from Dover/Newhaven)	£15 supplement
Foot passengers by Stena Lynx	£10

Cabin or restchair accommodation compulsory on Southampton-Cherbourg overnight crossings: 2-berth inside cabin £25, reclining seat £5

TEN-DAY RETURNS

Car and two people from £69

Routes: Dover-Calais, Newhaven-Dieppe, Southampton-Cherbourg

If you are looking for a last-minute deal to get to the ski slopes, Stena Line's ten-day return trip is the perfect opportunity. At just £69 for a car and two people, it offers exceptional value for money and, with additional passengers paying just £5 each, you can go with friends and save even more.

Ski-drive holidays are growing in popularity. Take the car and you can ski at a number of resorts or combine a week on the slopes with a few days exploring some of the sights en route.



10-day return — December 29 – April 3	
By Superferry car plus 2 people (inc driver)	£69
Additional passengers	£5
Saturday departure (from Dover/Newhaven)	£15 supplement
Friday departure (from Southampton)	£15 supplement
By Stena Lynx (from Dover/Newhaven)	£15 supplement
Foot passengers	£10
Foot passengers by Stena Lynx	£15

Cabin or restchair accommodation compulsory on Southampton-Cherbourg overnight crossings: 2-berth inside cabin £25, reclining seat £5

10% OFF DUTY FREE FOR NIGHT-TIME TRAVELLERS

Passengers travelling on Stena Line's night-time services can save 10% on all Duty Free goods from whisky and liqueurs to scent, cameras and other gift items.

This offer is available from January 4, 1996 to anyone travelling by Superferry on the Dover-Calais or Newhaven-Dieppe routes between 21.00 and 07.00 local time, or on the 22.00 sailing from Southampton-Cherbourg (excluding Fridays from Southampton) up to March 31.1996.

Ski-Link — the complete package for ski-drivers

Your Ski-Link ticket includes: return ferry crossing on any Stena Line route to France; comprehensive travel and insurance cover comprising AA Five Star Roadside Assistance Cover and Home and Overseas Personal Insurance with Winter Sports Cover; and a Ski-Drive book with 250 pages of route maps and information on more than 40 resorts including fold-out piste maps.

Enclosed with your tickets is a leaflet entitling you to up to 20% off at Blacks, Britain's largest retailer of both ski hardware and clothing.

This special offer represents a saving of at least 10% on normal Ski-Link prices when you collect three tokens from The Times and The Sunday Times.

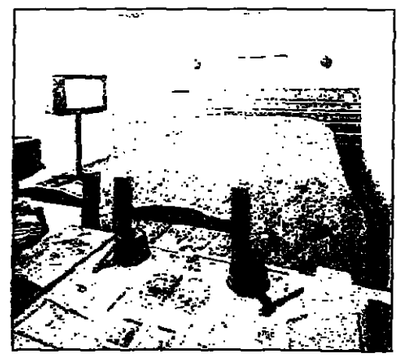
Up to 10 days	£125	£27	£15
Up to 17 days	£135	£32	£16
Longer stays at special *Times* prices are available on request			

OVERNIGHT STAYS

The Times and Stena Line have joined forces with the Campanile hotel group to offer you excellent-value overnight accommodation in quality two-star hotels, conveniently located close to motorways and major routes in France.

Whether you are on a short, three-day tour of northern France, on your way to the ski slopes, or travelling through France with our ten-day offer, you can enjoy an overnight break in the following locations: Northern France: Roissy, near Paris; Lens; Chelles (Paris); St. Denis Quai de St.Ouen (Paris) and Lille Sud. The route South: Chalons-sur-Marne; Dijon Nord; Macon Sud; Aix-les-Bains and Lyon-Tassin. Prices per room are: £28 per night, Friday to Sunday, £38 per night, Monday to Thursday. Breakfast is payable at the hotels at 32FF-34FF. The overnight stays must be booked through the reservations hotline at the same time as your ferry crossings. Early booking is recommended. Standard terms and conditions of Stena Line Holidays Ltd apply. ABTA no V5465.

hotel grill Campanile



HOW TO BOOK

Make your booking by calling the Stena Line Reservations credit card hotline on 0990 757575 and collect three of the eight tokens appearing in The Times and The Sunday Times until Monday January 1. Your first Times token appears on the coupon below. Lines are open today and on Sundays between 10am and 4pm, and 9am and 5.30pm Monday to Saturday from tomorrow, December 27.

When paying by credit card you must book at least 24 hours in advance of your chosen travel date and for credit card bookings made less than 10 days in advance you must hand in your coupon, with three tokens attached, at the port to collect your pre-paid tickets. For credit card bookings made more than ten days in advance and for payment by cheque, where you must book through the hotline ten days in advance of your travel date, return your completed coupon with three tokens attached to: ***The Times* Winter Breaks Offer, Stena Line, PO Box 147, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8BZ.** Alternatively, take your coupon and three tokens to your local travel agent or branch of the AA and ask them to make your booking for you. You can travel from December 29, 1995 with this offer.

All bookings must be made by February 15, 1996.

Terms and Conditions

1. Standard booking conditions and conditions of Stena Line apply to all bookings, see the current edition of Fast Ferry and Ferry Guide for details. **2.** The offer is subject to availability of space within *The Times* promotional allocation. **3.** Once a booking reference has been given, a fee of £10 will be chargeable for any amendment. **4.** All travel must be completed by April 3, 1996 and must be booked by February 15, 1996. **5.** The offer is not valid in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Compass Points can be earned but not redeemed. **6.** Brochure prices will apply for any additional requirements. **7.** The offer is valid for outward departure from the UK. A valid passport is required for travel to France. Non EU passport holders must check EU requirements. **8.** Cabins or restchairs are obligatory at a supplement on Southampton-Cherbourg overnight sailings. **9.** The sailing times on the ticket must be adhered to or the full fare will be charged. **10.** Vehicles permitted on this offer, up to a maximum six metres in length, are: car, motorised caravan and minibus.

THE TIMES

Stena Line WINTER BREAKS

Valid for travel from December 29, 1995 to April 3, 1996

Name.....

Booking Reference.....

Date of outward travel..... Sailing time .....

☐ 3-day return ☐ 5-day return ☐ 10-day return ☐ Ski-Link

Subject to the terms and conditions in *The Sunday Times* and *The Times* December 24 & 26, 1995

THE TIMES Stena Line TOKEN 1

ATTACH TOKEN HERE

ATTACH TOKEN HERE

CALL THE STENA LINE RESERVATIONS HOTLINE TODAY 0990 757575

Tomorrow sees the start of most sales in stores nationwide. **Karen Kay** offers a guide to smart bargains and savings . . .



The doors are now open, let the bargain-hunting begin

LONDON STORES

☐ **Bentalls**
Broadway Centre, Ealing, London W5 (0181-567 3040). From Dec 28.
Preview evening for account customers on December 27, 6-9pm. See nationwide listing.

☐ **Fenwick**
New Bond Street W1 (0171-629 9161). From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off items throughout the store. Nicole Farhi satin jackets were £199, now £99 (matching skirts were £79, now £55); Fenn, Wright and Manson reduced by up to 30 per cent.

☐ **Fortnum & Mason**
181 Piccadilly, W1 (0171-734 8040). From Dec 28.
Up to 50 per cent off selected lines throughout the store. Missoni, Georges Rech, Jasper Conran, Tomasz Starzewski and Maxmara reduced by one third.

☐ **Harrods**
87 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge SW1 (0171-730 1234). From Jan 3.
Up to 55 per cent off many items throughout the store, with an extra 10 per cent off account customers' purchases made on Jan 6. Sale items include 50 per cent off sterling silver cutlery in seven patterns; 50 per cent off many pianos; Nicole Farhi navy full-length women's double-breasted coat was £399, now £239; men's Jasper Conran suits were £395, now £295.

☐ **Harvey Nichols**
109-125 Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5000). From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off many items plus 10 per cent discount for current account card holders during first four days.

☐ **House of Fraser**
Army & Navy, Victoria Street SW1 (0171-834 1234); Barkers, Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-937 5432); Dickens & Jones, Regent Street W1 (0171-734 7070); D.H. Evans, Oxford Street, W1 (0171-629 8800); D.H. Evans, High Road, Wood Green, N22 (0181-889 3111). From Dec 27. Scotland: from Boxing Day.
Up to 50 per cent off items throughout the stores. At least one third off womenswear by Kenzo Jeans, Kenzo Jungle, Moschino, Monix, French Connection, Amaya Arzuaga and Gaultier Jeans; Drifter Goose Down Duet duvets half recommended retail price; some Le Creuset cookware discounted by 40 per cent; 20 per cent off ready-made curtains; Argentum sterling silver cutlery — 60 piece canteen was £3,999, sale price £1,999.

☐ **John Lewis**
Oxford Street W1 (0171-629 7711); Brent Cross Shopping Centre (0181-202 6535); Peter Jones, Sloane Square SW1 (0171-730 3434). From Dec 28 at Oxford Street, Peter Jones, & Brent Cross; from Dec 29 at Kingston branch.
Discounts on discontinued stock, seconds and slight imperfects, eg, Jonelle Egyptian cotton deep-pile towels (seconds), bath sheets £13.

☐ **Liberty**
214-220 Regent Street W1; and branches nationwide (0171-734 1234). From Dec 27 for two-three weeks.
Up to 50 per cent discount off items throughout the store. Gilt frame mirrors were £225, sale price £112; antique chinese blue and white ginger vase lampbases were £149, sale price £74.50; Persian Bidjar Kelim rug was £450, sale price £225; English Eccentrics devoré velvet scarves were £159, sale price £109; Liberty print silk fabric by the metre was £14.95, sale price £10.

☐ **Selfridges**
Oxford Street W1 (0171-629 1234). From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off items throughout the store. Maxmara women's suit was £305, sale price £152; Betty Jackson jackets were £315, sale price £157; men's Hugo Boss, Nicole Farhi, YSL, CK by Calvin Klein and Victor Victoria all reduced by up to 50 per cent; men's Paul Smith reduced by up to 30 per cent; Giorgio Armani men's coats reduced by up to 30 per cent; childrenswear by Ralph Lauren, Levi and Naf Naf reduced by up to 30 per cent; Patricia Underwood hats were £305, sale price £152; Admiral 22Si American Side by Side fridge/freezer was £1,889, sale price £1,499; Meyers 4ft 6in Hadleigh Divan set was £599, sale price £299.

STORES NATIONWIDE

☐ **Bentalls**
High Street, Bracknell, Berks (0134 4424678); Wood Street, Kingston upon Thames, southwest London (0181-546 1001); Lakeside Shopping Centre, West Thurrock, Essex (01708 860077); The Angel Centre, Tonbridge, Kent (01732 771177); 10-21 South Street, Worthing, West Sussex (0190 3318011). Lakeside store, from Dec 27; all other stores, from Dec 28. (Preview for account customers at Kingston, Ealing, Worthing, Bracknell and Tonbridge is Dec 27, 6-9pm).
Up to 50 per cent off most seasonal lines.

☐ **Debenhams**
334-348 Oxford Street, London W1, plus branches nationwide. For your nearest store, ring 0171-408 4444. From Dec 27. Scotland: from Boxing Day.
Bargains throughout the store.

☐ **Denners**
High Street, Yeovil, Somerset (01935 74444). From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off a wide range of fashions and household goods, eg, selected beds from Slumberland and Sleepeezee at half the recommended retail price.

☐ **Fenwick**
Brent Cross Shopping Centre, Hendon, London NW4 (0181-202 8200); Canterbury (01227 766866); Leicester (0116 2553322); Newcastle (0191 2325100); Tunbridge Wells (01892 516716); Windsor (01753 855537); York (01904 643322). From Dec 27
Up to 50 per cent off items throughout the stores.

☐ **Hoopers**
The Promenade, Cheltenham (01242 527505); North Street, Chichester (01243 533103); The Strand, Torquay (01803 212754); Mount Pleasant Road, Tunbridge Wells (01892 530222); Hoopers For Men, The Great Hall, Tunbridge Wells (01892 529223); and Alderley Road, Wilmslow (01625 525381). For further information freecall 0800 318216. From Dec 27.
Selected items reduced by up to 50 per cent

☐ **House of Fraser**
Stores nationwide include Arnotts, Binns, David Evans, Dickens & Jones, Dingles, Frasers, Howells, Jollys, Kendalls, Rackhams and Schofield (inquiries 0171-963 2000). From Dec 27; Scotland: from Boxing Day.
See London listings for details.

☐ **John Lewis**
23 department stores nationwide. From Dec 28 at High Wycombe, Bainbridge, Cheadle, Edinburgh and Aberdeen (inquiries 0171-629 7711). All others start Dec 29.
See London listing for reductions.

FASHION AND ACCESSORIES

☐ **Ally Capellino**
95 Wardour Street, London W1 (0171-494 0768); general inquiries 0171-488 9777. From Dec 29-late Jan.
30-50 per cent off all clothing.

☐ **Amanda Wakeley**
80 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-584 4009). From Jan 5.
40-80 per cent off autumn/winter collections.

☐ **Anna Molinari Blumarine**
11-12 Old Bond Street, London W1 (0171-493 4872). Sale now on.
Up to 25 per cent off selected merchandise.

☐ **APC**
124 Draycott Avenue SW3 (0171-225 0364). From Dec 27.
30 per cent off designer womenswear, further discounts as sale progresses.

☐ **Aquascutum**
100 Regent Street, London W1 (0800 2869 22). From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off selected lines.

☐ **Austin Reed**
103-113 Regent Street, London W1 and branches (inquiries 0171-734 6789). From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off (plus 5 per cent discount for account customers on Dec 27, 28 and 29), eg, men's pure wool suits were £279, now £199; men's pure cotton shirts were £37.50, now £17.95; women's winter coats were £279, now £139.

☐ **Ballantyne Cashmere**
53a New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-493 4718). From Jan 4.
25 per cent off selected items.

☐ **Bally**
Fifty-nine shops and concessions nationwide (inquiries 0800 834865). From Dec 27.
Up to 40 per cent off autumn/winter shoes.

☐ **Bertie Shoes**
London: 36 South Molton Street, W1; 118 King's Road, SW3; 25 Long Acre, Covent Garden, WC2 and 409 Oxford Street, W1 (inquiries 0171-935 2002). Sale already under way.
Up to 50 per cent off.

☐ **Brora**
344 King's Road, London SW3 (0171-352 3697). From Jan 5.
Up to 50 per cent off cashmere knitwear.

☐ **Betty Jackson**
311 Brompton Road, London SW3 (0171-589 7884). Dec 27-end of Jan.
Everything reduced by 50 per cent, except leather (30 per cent).

☐ **Blazer**
Branches nationwide (0181-749 1251). From Dec 27. Gatwick and Glasgow branches from Boxing Day.
Up to 50 per cent off selected items.



☐ **Browns**
23-27 South Molton Street, London W1 and 6c Sloane Street, London SW1 (inquiries 0171-491 7833). From Jan 4.
Up to 50 per cent off selected items. Donna Karan dark camel, fitted jacket was £1,180, sale price £600 (matching skirt was £425, sale price £230).

☐ **Burberry**
18-22 Haymarket, London SW1; 165 Regent Street, London W1 (inquiries 0171-930 3343). From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off selected items. Women's trench coats were £495, now £285; men's flyfront raincoats were £395, now £235; umbrellas were £52.50, now £32.50.

☐ **Caroline Charles**
56-57 Beauchamp Place, London SW3; 170 New Bond Street, London W1; 9 St John's Wood High Street, London NW8; 25 High Street, Old Amersham, Buckinghamshire (inquiries 0171-225 3197). From Jan 2.
30-50 per cent reductions on autumn/winter collection. Wool crêpe dresses and suits discounted by 30 per cent.

☐ **Cashmere By Design**
64 Neal Street, Covent Garden, London WC2 (0171-240 3653). From Dec 27.
Up to 40 per cent off, eg, two-ply cashmere sleeveless crewnecks were £89, now £69.

☐ **Catherine Walker**
Chelsea Design Company, 65 Sydney Street, London SW3 (0171-352 4626). From Jan 10.
Up to 50 per cent off selected day and eveningwear.

☐ **Chanel**
26 Old Bond Street, London, W1 and 31 Sloane Street, London SW1 (inquiries 0171-493 5040). From Jan 6-13.
30 per cent off autumn/winter ready-to-wear collection.

☐ **Christian Lacroix**
8a Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-235 2400) and 29 Old Bond Street, London W1 (0171-409 1994). Sale now on.
30 per cent off main line, 40 per cent off Bazar.

☐ **Churchs**
201 Regent Street, London W1 and 133 New Bond Street, London W1. Further branches nationwide (inquiries 01323 649408). From Dec 27.
Some shoes reduced by up to 60 per cent.

☐ **Cox & Power**
95 Walton Street, London SW3 (0171-589 6335). Mail-order catalogue available from Jan 2.
Specially designed jewellery gift worth £100 on all purchases over £500 made during January.

☐ **DKNY**
27 Old Bond Street, London W1 (0171-499 8089). From Dec 28
Up to 50 per cent off selected items.

☐ **Dolce & Gabbana**
175 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-235 0335). From Dec 27.
30 per cent off autumn/winter collection.

☐ **Emma Hope**
33 Amwell Street, London EC1 (0171-833 2367). From Jan 6.
40 per cent off most shoes and boots.

☐ **Emporio Armani**
57-59 Long Acre, London WC2; 111-112 New Bond Street, London W1; 191 Brompton Road, London SW3; 84-86 King Street, Manchester and The Italian Centre, John Street, Glasgow (inquiries 0171-823 8818). From Dec 27.

☐ **Equipment**
21 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-235 9868) and 26 Brook Street, London W1 (0171-491 3130). From Dec 27.
30 per cent off silk and cotton shirts, further discounts as sale progresses.

☐ **Ermenegildo Zegna**
37 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-493 4471) and 42 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, London WC2 (0171-497 0001). Inquiries: 0171-629 7088. From Jan 2.
Substantial discounts on designer menswear, including suits from £595 down to £429; jackets were £450, sale price £329.

☐ **Escada**
67 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-629 0934); 35a George Street, Edinburgh (0131-225 9885); 41-46 James Street, Harrogate (01423 500497). From Dec 27.
30-50 per cent off all stock.

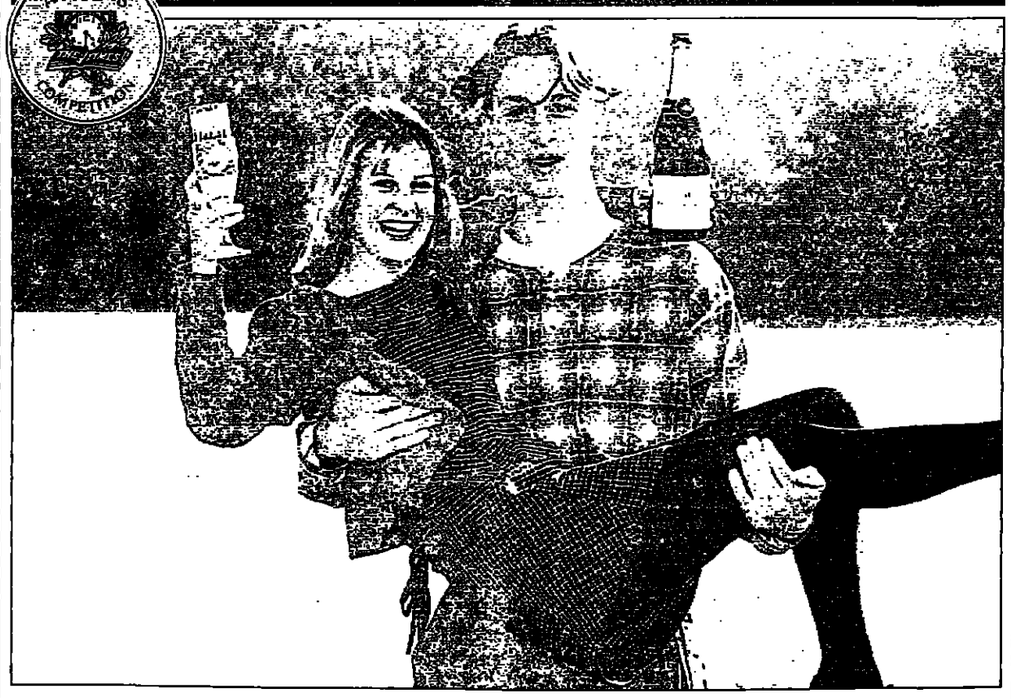
☐ **Georgina Von Etzdorf**
50 Burlington Arcade, London W1 and 149 Sloane Street, London SW1 (inquiries 0171-232 6625). From Jan 3.
Up to 30 per cent off assorted merchandise.

☐ **Gianfranco Ferre**
Ladieswear 29 Sloane Street, London, SW1 (0171-838 9576). From Jan 4.
Substantial discounts on autumn/winter collection. Prince of Wales check wool skirt suit was £2,100, sale price £1,470.

☐ **Gieves & Hawkes**
No 1 Savile Row, London W1 (inquiries: 0171-434 2001); 20 Old Bond Street, Bath, Avon; 2 Queens Circus, Montpellier, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire; 1-7 St Michael's Row, Chester; 22 The Hard, Portsmouth, Hants; 1/2 The Square, Winchester. From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off menswear.

☐ **Hermès**
155 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-499 8856) and 179 Sloane Street, London SW3 (0171-823 1014). Inquiries: 0171-259 5191. From Jan 6-13.
40 per cent off most ready-to-wear.

YOUR CHANCE TO BECOME AN INSTANT MILLIONAIRE



10,000 National Lottery tickets to be won

Anyone can become an instant millionaire by buying a lottery ticket, but *The Times* is giving our readers an even better chance of being the lucky winner by offering you lottery tickets in our exclusive competition.

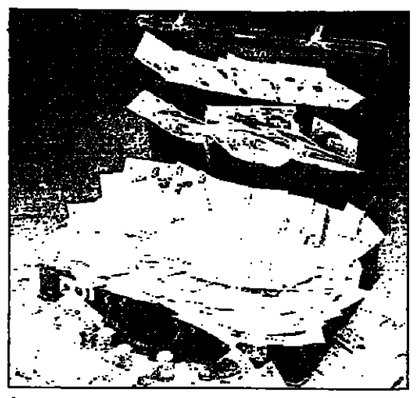
We have entered 10,000 tickets into Saturday night's draw and are offering six readers the chance to win them. The prizes will be allocated on the following basis:

One first prize of 5,000 £1 tickets

Five runners-up prizes of 1,000 £1 tickets

All the tickets have been given randomly generated numbers and the six winners will be contacted before the draw and told how many tickets they have won. *The Times* will hold the competition winners' numbers on our computer which will work out, as soon as the draw is made, if any of our readers' tickets are winners. If they are, we will inform them on Saturday evening.

The lottery ticket competition will run all this week. Every day we will publish a question and all you have to do is phone in your answer on our competition hotline which will be open 24 hours a day until Saturday when it will close at 3pm. All the correct answers to all five days' questions will go into the draw, so you can enter the competition as many times as you wish. The first six correct answers selected at random from all entries received will win the prizes.



THE QUESTION

Who wrote the old favourite song, White Christmas?

a) Ira Gershwin
b) Stephen Sondheim
c) Irving Berlin

Competition Rules

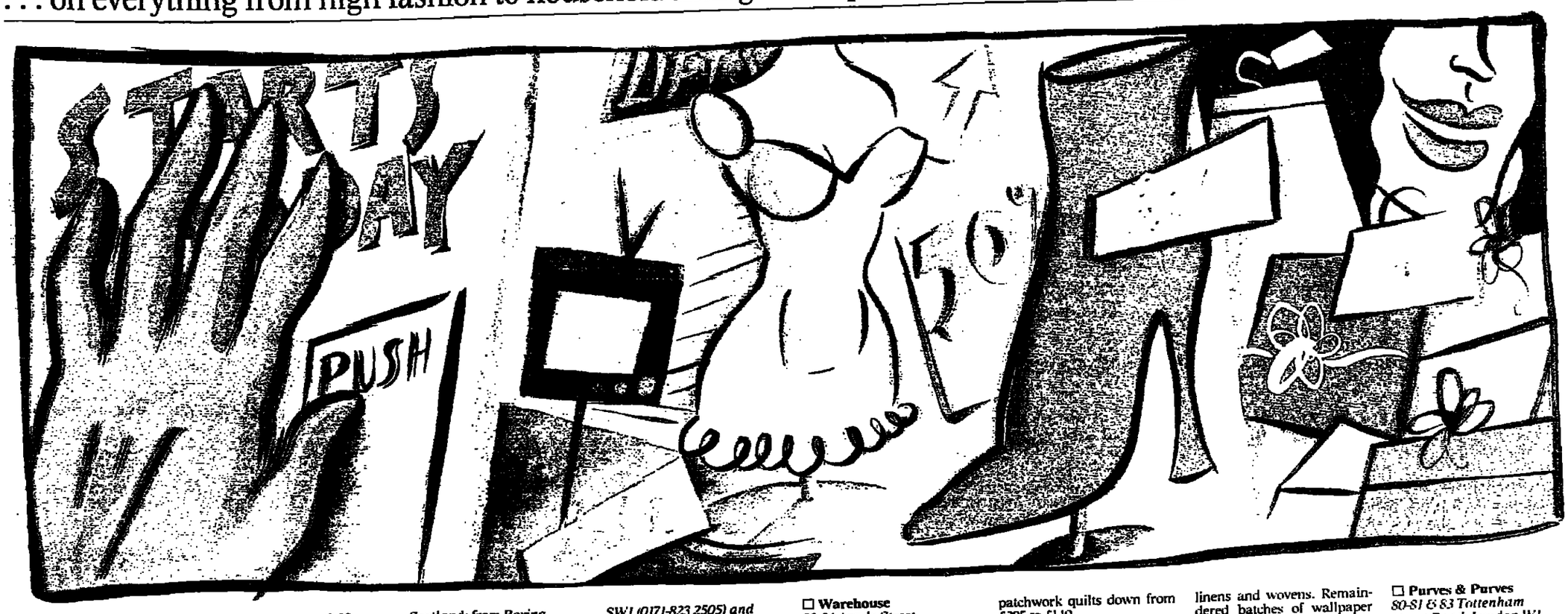
1. Open to all residents in the UK and channel islands except employees of News International, their families and persons involved in the administration of the competition. 2. Entrants must be 18 years and over. 3. A full list of lottery ticket numbers entered into this lottery ticket competition, and any lottery winners, will be available by writing to: *The Times* Lottery Competition, Customer Services Department, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9BD.

PHONE YOUR ANSWER ON: 0891 40 50 49

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other times

هكذا من الاصل

. . . on everything from high fashion to household fittings and sporting goods, from Scotland to South Molton Street



☐ **Jaeger & Jaeger Menswear**
200-206 Regent Street, London W1 and 163 Sloane Street, London SW1 and branches (0171-200 4000). From Dec 27. (Preview Dec 20.)
20-50 per cent reductions on many lines, including cent off men's knitwear; 30 per cent off men's formal attire; 40 per cent off men's formal shirts.

☐ **Jil Sander**
26 South Molton Street, . London W1 (0171-491 7833). From Jan 4.
Substantial discounts on autumn/winter collection. Wool crepe A-line skirt was £385, sale price £235; herringbone coat was £1,515, sale price £1,065; taupe wool skirt suit was £1,155, sale price £810; satin, round-neck, long-sleeved evening tunic in cream, navy or grey was £220, reduced to £135.

☐ **John Lobb**
90 Jermyn Street, London SW1 (0171-930 8089). From Jan 6 (preview Jan 5).
Men's shoes from £195, with a good selection at £225 — normal prices £330-£360.

☐ **Jones and Jones Femmes**
13 & 15 Floral Street, London WC2 (0171-240 8312/0171-379 4299). From Jan 2 (preview Dec 31, 1-5pm).
30 per cent off designers such as Dries van Noten, Helmut Lang, Issey Miyake.

☐ **Jones The Bootmaker**
Branches nationwide (inquiries 01323 649408). From Dec 27.
Men's and women's footwear discounted by up to 60 per cent, eg, men's Logger boots were £49.99, now £19.99; women's Scrunch leather high heel with tassel trim were £39.99, now £19.99.

☐ **Joseph**
77 Fulham Road, London SW3; 26 Sloane Street, London SW1; 16 Sloane Street, London SW1; 28 Brook Street, London W1; 23 Old Bond Street W1; 21 St John's Wood High Street, London NW8. (Inquiries 0171-736 2522). From Dec 27.
At least 30 per cent off autumn/winter collection.

☐ **Karen Millen**
17-19 Neal Street, London. WC2 and branches in the southeast (for your nearest ring 01622 664032). From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off, eg, jackets from £50, coats from £65.

☐ **Karl Lagerfeld**
173 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-493 6277). Sale now on.
40-60 per cent off autumn/winter collection, including women's trouser suits reduced from £495 to £297.

☐ **Katharine Hamnett**
20 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-935 3556). From Dec 28-Jan 6 (then closed for refurbishment until Jan 29).
Most stock reduced by 30 per cent, reductions of up to 70 per cent as the sale progresses. Women's wool jacket reduced from £335 to £165; trousers from £135 to £67.50.

☐ **Kingshill Mail Order**
For copies of the Collections and Diffusion catalogues (£7.50 and £3.50 respectively) call 01494 890555, or fax 01494 866003. From Jan 1.
Half-price designer clothing and accessories, including Jasper Conran, Nicole Farhi, Caroline Charles, Paul Costelloe, Amanda Wakeley and Jaeger London.

☐ **Laura Ashley**
Branches nationwide: ring 01686 622116 for details. From Dec 27. Preview for account customers 8.30-10.30am on first day: Brent Cross 10-11.30am. Scotland: sale starts Boxing Day. Preview for account customers 10am-noon on first day.
20-50 per cent discount on selected items.

☐ **Manolo Blahnik**
49-51 Old Church Street, London SW3 (0171-352 8622). From Jan 12.
At least 45 per cent off selected lines, including some shoes selling at for £50 per pair.

☐ **Margaret Howell**
29 Beauchamp Place, London SW3 and 24 Brook Street, London W1 (inquiries 0171-627 5587). From Dec 27. Preview Dec 23.
More than 30 per cent off autumn/winter collection.

☐ **Maxmara**
149 New Bond Street, London W1 and 32 Sloane Street, London SW1 (inquiries 0171-297 3434). From Jan 2.
More than 30 per cent off autumn/winter collection.

☐ **Mulberry**
11-12 Gees Court, London W1 (0171-493 1500); 185 Brompton Road, London SW1 (0171-225 1013) and 23-25 Swinegate, York (01904 611055). For in-store concessions, see relevant department stores. From Dec 27.
Up to 40 per cent off selected items. Men's watersilk ski jackets reduced by 40 per cent; Scotchgrain Clipper bags from £105; selected



leather bags reduced; most women's ready-to-wear is reduced by one third.

☐ **Marks & Spencer**
Branches nationwide (inquiries 0171-935 4422). From Dec 27.

☐ **Monsoon**
Branches nationwide (inquiries 0171-313 3000). From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off selected items and 30 per cent off eveningwear.

☐ **Moss Bros**
27 King Street, Covent Garden, London WC2 (0171-240 4567); 88 Regent Street, London W1 (0171-494 0666) and Eastcheap, London EC3 (0171-626 4247). Sale already under way.
Up to 50 per cent off, eg, business suits and dress suits were £199, now £99.50; cashmere overcoats were £599, sale price £299; Moss Bros dress shirts were £19.95, sale price £12.95.

☐ **Next**
Branches nationwide. For nearest shop ring 0116 2849424. From Dec 27.
Autumn/winter stock reduced by up to 50 per cent.

☐ **N Peal**
54, 37 and 71 Burlington Arcade, London W1; 192 Piccadilly, London W1 (inquiries 0171-493 9220). Sale now on at 54 Burlington Arcade; other branches from Jan 4.
30-50 per cent discount on autumn/winter cashmere, including twinsets, rollnecks and crewnecks.

☐ **Oasis**
292 Regent Street, London W1; 13 St James's Street, London WC2 and branches (inquiries 0171-323 5978). From Dec 27. Scotland: from Boxing Day.
30-50 per cent off selected items.

☐ **Paul Smith Women**
40 Floral Street, London WC2 (0171-379 7133). From Jan 13.
30 to 50 per cent off all stock.

☐ **Patrick Cox**
8 Symons Street, London SW3 (0171-730 6504). From Jan 2.
20 per cent off all men's and women's shoes.

☐ **Paul Smith**
40-44 Floral Street, London WC2 (0171-379 7133). 9-11 Langley Court, London WC2 (0171-836 7828). From Jan 13.
30-50 per cent off all stock.

☐ **Polo Ralph Lauren**
143 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-491 4967). From Jan 6.
30-50 per cent off autumn/winter collection for men, women and boys.

☐ **Principles**
419 Oxford Street, London W1 and branches nationwide (inquiries 0171-927 1443). From Dec 27. Scotland: from Boxing Day.
At least 25 per cent off most lines.

☐ **Richard James**
31 Savile Row, London W1 (0171-434 0605). From Jan 13.
Up to 50 per cent off selected items.

☐ **Romeo Gigli**
62 South Molton Street, London W1 (0171-495 6730). From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off selected items from autumn/winter collections for men and women. Full-length double-breasted woman's coat with fur collar was £1,025 now £515; woman's black or petrol velvet corduroy trouser suit was £815, now £410; cotton, fitted, long-collared shirt with jewelled cufflinks down from £305 to £155; brocade fitted waistcoasts reduced to £155 from £310; men's four-button suit in navy/black/grey or stripes reduced to £350 from £700.

☐ **Ronit Zilkha**
187 Brompton Road, London SW3 (0171-823 8415); 34 Brook Street, London W1 (0171-499 3707); 70 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 (0171-431 0253). From Dec 27.
30-50 per cent off autumn/winter collection. Cashmere and wool knee-length coat with Peter Pan collar reduced to £149 from £399.

☐ **Racing Green**
193-197 Regent Street, London W1 (0171-437 4300); 33 King Street, Manchester (0161-835 2022); Unit F1, The Bentall Centre, Kingston-upon-Thames, southwest London (0181-546 2224) and 16 Buchanan Street, Glasgow (0141-226 4114). For a free mail-order catalogue ring 0345 331177. From Dec 26 in Glasgow; Dec 27 in London, Kingston and Manchester.
Up to 60 per cent off, eg, women's wool and cashmere hacking jackets were £115, now £50; men's wool and cashmere Doncaster jackets were £125, now £50.

☐ **Red Or Dead**
London: Thomas Neal Centre, Covent Garden, WC2; Neal Street, Covent Garden, WC2; 186 Camden High Street, NW1 and 36 Kensington High Street, W8 (inquiries 0171-937 3137). From Dec 27.
50 per cent off selected stock. Acid bright wool suits were £245, sale price £130; nylon knee high boots were £120, sale price £60.

☐ **Oilily**
9 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-823 2505) and 24 Church Alley, Liverpool (0151-708 9236). From Dec 28.
30-50 per cent discounts on all womenswear and childrenswear.

☐ **S Fisher**
23-23 Burlington Arcade, London W1 (0171-493 4180). From Dec 27.
Up to 40 per cent off selected garments, including John Smedley lines.

☐ **Scotch House**
2 Brompton Road, London SW1; 84-86 Regent Street, London W1 and 64 Buchanan Street, Glasgow (inquiries 0171-581 2151). From Dec 27.
30-40 per cent off selected stock. Women's cashmere crewnecks down from £175 to £129; men's cashmere V-necks now £169, were £235.

☐ **Simpson**
Piccadilly, London W1 (0800 288188). From Dec 27.
25-50 per cent off selected merchandise, including DAKS women's jackets reduced to £159 (from £229); men's DAKS suits were £299, sale price £149.

☐ **Space NK**
Thomas Neal's, 41 Earlham Street, London WC2 (0171-379 7030). From Dec 28.
30 to 40 per cent off designer labels such as Clements Ribeiro, Future Ozbek, Liza Bruce.

☐ **Swaine Adeney Brigg**
10 Old Bond Street, London W1 (0171-409 7277). From Dec 30.
Up to 50 per cent off selected items, including 30 per cent off women's and menswear; 20 per cent off certain ranges of the Brigg umbrella.

☐ **Thomas Pink**
London: 85 Jermyn Street, SW1; 35 Dover Street, W1; 16 Blomfield Street, EC2; 16 Cullum Street, EC3; 44 Bow Lane, EC4; 82 Chancery Lane, WC2; Drayton Gardens, SW10; Cabot Place East, Canary Wharf, E14; 32 Castle Street, Edinburgh (inquiries: 0171-498 2202). Sale starts Jermyn Street, Drayton Gardens and Church Street, Edinburgh from Boxing Day; all other stores from Dec 27. Sale ends Jan 20.
Up to 50 per cent off selected merchandise.

☐ **Timberland**
72 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-935 2139). From Dec 27.
Up to 40 per cent off selected stock. Men's footwear reduced by up to 25 per cent; women's footwear by up to 30 per cent.

☐ **Valentino**
173-174 Sloane Street, London SW1 and 160 New Bond Street, London W1 (inquiries: 0171-493 2698). Sale now on.
40-60 per cent off autumn/winter collection for women. Men's collection at Sloane Street reduced by around 30 per cent.

☐ **Versace**
34-36 Old Bond Street, London W1 (0171-499 1862) and the Italian Centre, Glasgow (0141-552 6510). From Jan 4.
30 per cent off selected items.

☐ **Versus by Versace**
92 Brompton Road, London SW3 (0171-581 8407). From Jan 4.
30 per cent off selected stock.

☐ **Wannabe by Patrick Cox**
129 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-730 8886). From Jan 2.
50 per cent off all clothing, 20 per cent off selected shoes and accessories. NB: classic styles, eg, python, are not included in the sale.

☐ **Warehouse**
22-24 Argyle Street, London W1 (0171-278 3491) and nationwide (0181-910 1400 for details). From Christmas Eve.
Up to one third off.

☐ **Whistles**
27 Sloane Square, London, SW1; 12-14 St



Christopher's Place, London, W1 and branches (inquiries 0171-487 4484). From Dec 27.
Up to 60 per cent off selected pieces from the autumn/winter collection, eg, leather trenchcoat was £725, now £425.

☐ **Yves Saint Laurent Rive Gauche**
137 New Bond Street, London W1 (womenswear); 135 New Bond Street, London W1 (menswear); and 33 Sloane Street, London SW1 (men's and womenswear). Inquiries 0171-235 6706. From Dec 27.
40 per cent off all stock, including silk velvet evening jackets (various colours) reduced from £865 to £520.

HOMES & INTERIORS

☐ **And So To Bed**
638-640 Kings Road, London SW6 & nationwide (inquiries 0171-731 3593). From Dec 27-Jan 27.
Up to 50 per cent off selected classic French & English bedsteads. Cast iron & brass bedsteads reduced by up to 50 per cent at Kings Road branch.

☐ **Bisque**
244 Belsize Road, London NW6 (0171-328 2225). From Jan 8.
Up to 40 per cent discount on selected radiators. Nickel-plated free standing radiators (575mm high x 540mm long) were £550, sale price £330.

☐ **The Conran Shop**
Michelin House, 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-589 7401). From Jan 6-21.
Bargains throughout the store. Plus two warehouse sales of furniture at half price and less at Unit 16, Merton Park Estate, Lee Road, London, SW16. Jan 6 and 7, (Sat 10am-6.30pm, Sun 10am-4pm). Courtesy bus between store and warehouse.

☐ **C.P. Hart**
Newham Terrace, Hercules Road, London SE1 (0171-902 1000). From Jan 13-Feb 3.
Reductions on factory seconds and warehouse clearance stock, including classic cast-iron rolltop baths at £305.50 — an extra 5 per cent discount for anyone taking purchases with them.

☐ **Crucial Trading**
77 Westbourne Park Road, London W2 (0171-221 9000) and 4 St Barnabas Street, Pimlico Green, London SW1 (0171-730 0075); Factory shop: Pukka Palace, 174 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1 (0171-234 0000). From Dec 28.
Up to 59 per cent off selected floor coverings. 20 per cent off floorcovering in the factory shop.

☐ **Damask**
3-4 Broxholme House, New King's Road, London SW6 (0171-731 3553). From Jan 10-31.
25-50 per cent discount on selected lines, including patchwork quilts down from £295 to £140.

☐ **Descamps**
197 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-235 6957). Also on sale at Liberty, Regent Street, London W1. From Dec 27.
Substantial reductions on spring/summer 1995 collection of bedlinens, towels and bathrobes.

☐ **Designers Guild**
267 and 277 King's Road, London SW3 (0171-351 5775). From Jan 6.
Up to 50 per cent off selected items including printed, colour woven, appliqué and embroidered bedlinen. 20-50 per cent off upholstered furniture.

Designers Guild Warehouse Sale: *6 Relay Road, Ariel Way, off Wood Lane, London W12 (0171-243 7300). From Jan 13.*
Big reductions on fabric and wallpaper.

☐ **Divertimenti**
45-47 Wigmore Street, London W1 (0171-935 0689) & 139-141 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-581 8065). From Jan 13.
Up to 50 per cent off items throughout the store, eg, Italian Gallina pottery (new pattern) at half price.

☐ **The General Trading Company**
144 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-730 0411); 10 Argyle Street, Bath, Avon (01225 461507); 24 Dyer Street, Cirencester, Wiltshire (01285 652314). London: from Jan 6 for three weeks; Bath and Cirencester: Dec 27.
Up to 30 per cent off selected merchandise. Selected quilted cotton bedspreads were £180, sale price £135; Kelim stools were £640, sale price £500.

☐ **Habitat**
Stores nationwide. Ring 0645 334433 for nearest branch. From Dec 27-Jan 28.
Up to 50 per cent off selected stock. Solid beech table was £399, now £279; maple table was £249, now £199; Boundry bedroom furniture discounted by 20 per cent; Garrick sofa was £949, now £759, matching armchair was £499, now £399.

☐ **Heal's**
196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1; 234 King's Road, London SW3; and Tunsgate, Guildford, Surrey (inquiries 0171-636 1666). From Dec 27-Jan 21.
10-50 per cent off selected home furnishings. Heal's Avon handmade beds reduced from £2,495 to £1,870; Tivoli oak dining table down from £895 to £779; Yuli sofa in natural lacquered rattan reduced from £550 to £325.

☐ **Ian Mankin**
109 Regents Park Road, London NW1 (0171-483 2323) & 271 Wandsworth Bridge Road, London SW6 (0171-371 8825). From Jan 8 for one week.
At least 50 per cent discount on furnishing and curtain fabrics.

☐ **Jane Churchill**
151 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-730 9847); 3a Christopher Place, St Albans (01727 860293); 13 Fitzroy Street, Cambridge (01223 323211). From Dec 28.
Greatly reduced discontinued and seconds fabrics, remnants and wallpapers.
Plus: warehouse clearance sale at the Royal Horticultural Society's Old Hall, 80 Vincent Square, London SW1. For information call 0171-493 2231. Jan 19, 10am-6pm, and Jan 20, 10am-3pm.
Bolts of discontinued and slightly imperfect chintzes, linens and wovens. Remaindered batches of wallpaper plus remnants.

☐ **Jerry's Home Store**
163 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-581 0909); 57 Heath Street, Hampstead, London NW3 (0171-794 8622); The Bentall Centre, Kingston, southwest London (0181-549 5393); and Home on Four, Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-245 6251). From Jan 9 for seven weeks.
Up to one third off selected stock. White porcelain dinner plates for £3.25; classic Gibralter glasses for £2.25.

☐ **The Monogrammed Linen Shop**
168 Walton Street, London SW3 (0171-589 4033). From Jan 2.
Up to 50 per cent off selected stock, eg, 100 per cent cotton sheet sets and duvet covers in plain pastel colours at half price (single sheet now £7).

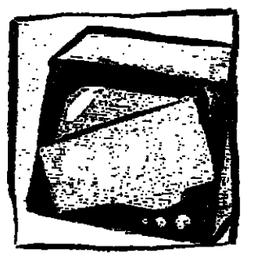
☐ **Natural Flooring Direct**
PO Box 8104, London SE16. (Freephone 0800 454721 for mail-order information, orders and inquiries). From Jan 3.
10 per cent off all stock including coir, semi-bleached jute, sisal and wool bouclé, with free fitting, and site survey.

☐ **Nice Irma's**
46 Goodge Street, London W1 (0171-508 6921). From Jan 8.
Up to 50 per cent off selected stock. Plaid bedspreads in six designs were £37.10, sale price £24.10 (kingsize — also available in single and double); plaid cushion covers were £8.40, sale price £5.50; 50 per cent off a range of iron and brass ware.

☐ **Oggetti**
133 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-581 8088). From Jan 6-27.
At least 10 per cent off, with further discounts on selected items.

☐ **Oggettialessi**
143 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-584 9808). From Jan 6-27.
At least 10 per cent off all stock, with further discounts on selected items.

☐ **Paperchase**
213 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0171-580



8496). From Dec 27.
All Christmas stock reduced by 25 per cent.

☐ **The Pier**
200 Tottenham Court Road, London W1; 91-95 King's Road, London SW3; 10 Union Street, Bath; Pavilions Shopping Centre, Birmingham; Hanningtons, 16-17 North Street, Brighton; The Galleries Shopping Centre, Bristol; Queens Arcade, Cardiff; Tunsgate Square, Guildford; The Bentall Centre, Kingston Upon Thames, southwest London; 98 Castle Mall, Norwich; Marlands Shopping Centre, Southampton; 40 The Harlequin Centre, Watford & Centre Court, Wimbledon (inquiries 0171-351 7100). From Dec 28.
Selected stock reduced to half price or less. Some wicker furniture ranges such as Manang, Surabaya, Americana and Antibes reduced by 20 per cent.

☐ **Purves & Purves**
80-81 & 83 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0171-580 8223). From Dec 27-Jan 27.
Up to 50 per cent off selected stock. Up to 40 per cent off ex-display furniture; 10 per cent off any single item over £500; 50 per cent off discontinued lines of accessories.

☐ **Simon Horn Furniture**
117-121 Wandsworth Bridge Road, London SW6 (0171-731 1270). From Jan 2.
Substantial reductions on quality beds and furniture, eg, £1,000 reduction on rosewood plain or panelled Lit Bateau, eg, 5ft 3in bed was £2,875, sale price £1,875.

☐ **Smallbone of Devizes**
Showrooms in London, Tunbridge Wells, Leamington Spa, Harrogate and Devizes (0171-589 5098 for nearest showroom). From Dec 27.
Substantial discounts on all hand-made furniture for kitchens, bedrooms and bathrooms. Signature kitchen styles such as Unfitted, Painted Pilaster, Inlay and Classical Classical reduced.

☐ **Tridias Toys**
124 Walcot Street, Bath, Avon and five other stores. For details or a free mail-order catalogue ring 01225 469455. From Jan 1.
10-50 per cent off selected items. Marionette Theatre was £17.99, sale price £12.99; Marionettes were £14.99, sale price £10.99; Wooden Timba game was £9.95, sale price £6.99; Crystal Radio was £6.95, sale price £5.95; p&p postage & packing for sale items reduced to just £1.95.

☐ **Yves Delorme**
For your nearest shop ring 01296 394980. From Dec 27-Jan 27.
25 per cent off all Yves Delorme Collection designs discontinued for 1996. Frou-Frou bedlinen by Christian Lacroix, double duvet cover was £82, sale price £61.50; pillowcase was £29, sale price £21.75; and double sheet was £66.75, sale price £50; Christian Lacroix Folklore towelling robe with embroidered cuffs was £108, sale price £81; green Jubilee ribbons and bows design double duvet cover was £64.75, sale price £48.50; pillowcase was £10.35, sale price £7.75. Eiffel and Paysage double duvet covers were £207, sale price £155, set of two matching pillowcases was £109, sale price £82.

SPORTS & LEISURE

☐ **Karrimor**
3 Southampton Street, Covent Garden, London WC2 (0171-497 0710). From Dec 27.
10-15 per cent off selected items. Waterproof jackets down from £199 to £169; fleece pullovers reduced from £69.99 to £59.99.

☐ **Snow & Rock**
188 Kensington High Street, London W8 (0171-937 0872); 150 Holborn, London EC1 (0171-831 6000); 14 Priory Queensway, Birmingham (0121-236 8280); Hemel Ski Centre, St Albans Hill, Hemel Hempstead, Herts (01442 235305); 99 Fordwater Road, Chertsey, Surrey (01932 569569) and Sheffield Ski Village, Vale Road, Parkwood Springs, Sheffield (01142 769450). From Dec 27.
Many items substantially reduced. 10 per cent off all accessories and ski boots.

● *Information correct at time of going to press. Dates and reductions may change at short notice. Please check with specific shops before making a special trip.*



■ TURKEYS

Our series of great disasters opens with an account of Lionel Bart's ill-fated *Twang!!*



■ VISUAL ART

Alphabetical order: a superb collection of lettering on show at the Crafts Council

THE TIMES ARTS



■ MUSIC

John Eliot Gardiner's recording of the *Christmas Oratorio* is our CD choice



■ TOMORROW

A turkey on screen: at *Heaven's Gate*, everything that could go wrong usually did

A critic's lot is not a happy one, says **Benedict Nightingale**, recalling the worst musical in the history of the world

Stinkers ain't what they used to be



Got any tickets for South America? The *Twang!!* notices are just in: Lionel Bart, once the golden boy of British musicals, came unstrung with his version of Robin Hood

Did I really see and hear a chorus of wiggling lovelies in wimples sing "too late the spring has sprang, my final fling has flang, yes I'm the twing who twang"? Well, I have a cassette which assures me I did, though it cannot confirm my suspicion that the poor women were rattling chastity belts at the time. Thirty years after the nightmare itself, only odd, lurid fragments remain in a memory that has, I fear, never been wholly trustworthy. But I am still pretty sure that Lionel Bart's Robin Hood musical, *Twang!!*, was the worst thing I have yet seen.

It faces stiff competition, some of it recent. This very year has been a golden age for barmy Shakespeare revivals. It will take me some time to get over the ending of Jude Kelly's often excitingly imaginative revival of *Lear*. What chance of being moved by the death of Warren Mitchell's tragic hero when it was instantly upstaged by the arrival of a Rastafarian King of France, flanked by motor-cycle couriers in leather and clearly intent on annexing England?

Then there was a multicultural *Antony and Cleopatra* in which Vanessa Redgrave unrewardingly dallied with a Russian, a Bosnian, an incomprehensible Glaswegian, a French-Vietnamese Charmian ("ooh-la-la") and an Afro-American Antony, who wandered beaming through the concrete rubble of war-torn Alexandria like Santa Claus on Prozac. And let's not forget Mark Rylance's *Macbeth*, which turned out to involve a Hare-Krishna sect taken over by a stupendously boring Texan evangelist. Extras included a drag lollipop-lady called Hecate, who used her children-crossing sign as a spoof guitar with which to serenade mini-skirted witches at a nightclub called the Pit of Acheron.

Each of these productions shrank its play from a mountain to an untidy molehill, and in each case I find I began my review by invoking what might be called the O'Toole Threat. That is to say, both came perilously close to claiming the title of worst-Shakespeare-ever from a production that passed into lore within days of its opening at the Old Vic. But no, the Peter O'Toole *Macbeth* can keep the trophy — a replica of the Bard mooning at the audience? — that we reviewers gave it in 1980.

I went to the second night of Brian Forbes's production, which was a doubly weird affair. The first notices had already appeared, bringing the director onstage to defend his work both against the critics and an unnamed producer he called "Judas", all to the accompaniment of yells of "f*** 'em" from a claque of roughly dressed gentlemen who had slid into the back of the stalls just before the final curtain. But the greater oddity was what Forbes had done to the play.

> Bart was wearing a sleepless, desperate look

He had attempted several miracles, such as asking the audience to shudder at a blood-boltered Banquo who had clearly swum five lengths in red paint, and none had come off. Least of all had he succeeded in getting a good performance from O'Toole, who saw Macbeth as a surly, brutalised oaf who lolled and swaggered across the stage half-bellowing, half-chanting in a bizarre actorish staccato, so that "Duncan" became "Dun Ken" and "but here" "bat hair".

The previous evening he had reputedly tried to exit through a wall, making the set lurch alarmingly. This time, the eccentricities were equally common but more banal. Everything and everyone — Macduff, Duncan, the dagger, hell, his own conscience — were hectored in the style of the Monty Python loudmouth with the handkerchief knotted over his ears. The audience laughed, but O'Toole did not mind. "Macbeth is a very funny play," he said later.

But when it comes to awfulness, musicals are in a category of their own. It is difficult enough to get the mix of book, tunes, decor, stars and chorus right in the first place; and throwing money at the problem is seldom a solution. The more producers spend, the more financially trapped they become, the more desperate the "fixes" get, and the worse their show finally is. That algebra certainly seems to explain *Twang!!*, which ended up costing a then British record of £130,000 to bring to London.

Was it worse than the most recent musical disasters, *Which Witch* and *Bernadette*? Well, their lyrics could not compete with

An atom bomb goes bang,
An armoured suit goes clang
An archer's bow goes ter-wang.

Was it worse than the American show *Marilyn*, whose climax had poor Monroe in a bubble bath, singing along with a trio of plumbers in pink? Even that did not match the next three lines of Bart's title-song:

That's how my heartstrings went
— ter-wang!
That's the sound you sent
— ter-wang!
Down to my fundament when I
first set eyes on you.

I reviewed *Twang!!* first at its premiere in Manchester and again at the kill in the West End. But it was a nice assignment for a cub journalist. The advance hype was tremendous, for the creator of *Oliver!* was then at the height of his fame and his director was Joan Littlewood, who had launched his career with *Fings Ain't What They Used to Be*. With Bernard Bresslaw as Little John, Barbara Windsor as a Cockney nymphomaniac called Delphina, James Booth as a spivvish Robin Hood, and Ronnie Corbett as Will Scarlett, it could not fail — could it?

Well, rumours of trouble soon surfaced in Manchester. It was said that Littlewood was so busy getting the cast to do Vietcong improvisations that the show had no shape, plot or even text. As the first night approached, the changes were so many that Corbett left the rehearsal room for a pee, only to find on his return that a key speech had gone. "Don't ever let me go for a shit," he told Littlewood, "or you'll cut out my entire part."

Littlewood thought Oliver Messel's costumes too posh and made the cast jump up and down on them, and threw out the expensive velvet leaves he had designed for Sherwood Forest. Meanwhile, Bart was chauffeured about town in a Cadillac wearing a flat northern cap and a sleepless, desperate look. The director and composer began to feud. A day after the world premiere, Littlewood quit and the producer, Bernard Delfont, soon followed.

For me, the two openings blur into one, which is a pity, for Burt Shevelove was brought in as director, and he and Bart continued to make changes up to what was unsurprisingly a delayed London first night. The plot, such as it was, involved the Merry Men's attempts to rescue Delphina from Prince John, who wanted to marry her to a Scot called Roger the Ugly. But in Manchester in particular the songs seemed unrelated to the action and confusion ruled.

There, the audience remained grimly unamused both by the crusaders' wives ("we clink as we walk and shout for an outlaw until we're undone") in their chastity belts and by exchanges such as "We'll toss the caber", "Don't be filthy". But mainly I remember the moment when Windsor, alone onstage, had to say "I don't know what's going on here", to which the balcony riposted "nor do we" and at long last laughter filled the Palace Theatre's vast, silent auditorium. I have never since been able to think of her without respect, for she just grinned and gamely battled on.

There was all of 25 seconds applause at the end, and it might have been less if the Manchester audience had known Bart was already describing them as "guinea pigs" and the first night as a "rehearsal". But the show was little better in the West End. The Sheriff of Nottingham was now stripped to pink combinations, and the Merry Men did some cheery cross-dressing, provoking one critic to compare them to "prancing male models, anxious to get home and put their hair in curlers". Friar Tuck made V-signs and gurgled. It was like a bad *Carry On* film with songs that sometimes rhymed.

That pleased Danny la Rue, who answered the London gallery's shouts of "thank God that's over" with "there are artists down there, doing their best". So they were, too, but that did not stop the show expiring a month after its opening. Bart took most of the flak, though in my view the real culprit was Littlewood. Her rough-theatre arrogance ensured that a dubious idea got off to the worst possible start, and, after she had flounced off, the Getty millions could not have bought a quick enough fix.

But let the heroic Windsor have the last word: "Whenever I'm in a show that's not going well I think of *Twang!!*, because if one can survive that, one can survive anything."

Jim McCue on an inspirational display of lettering at the Crafts Council Gallery in London

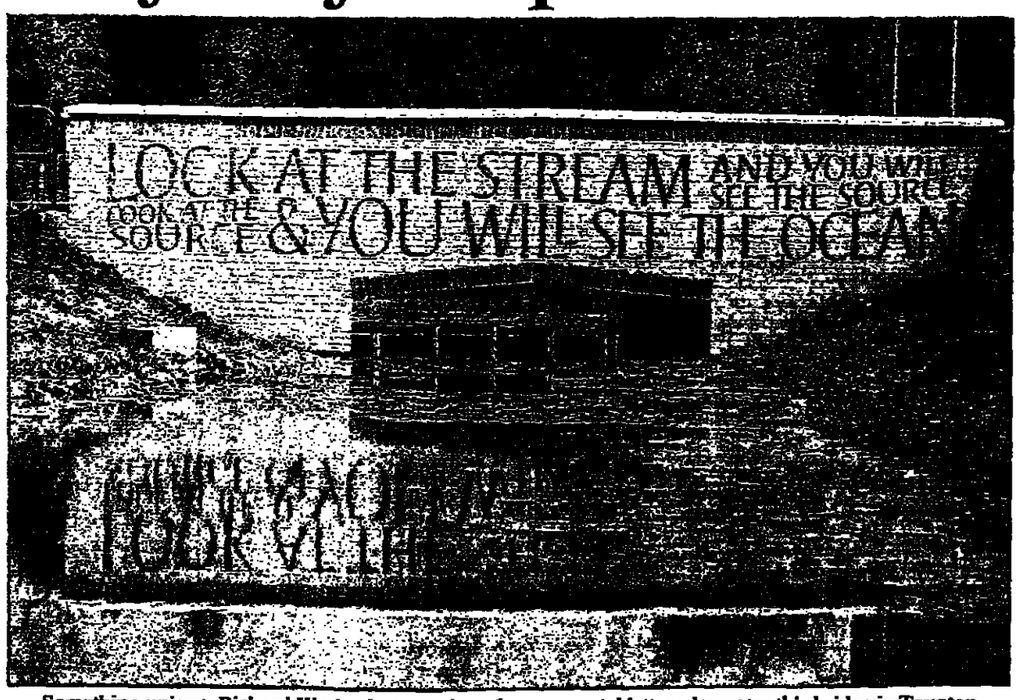
The many ways to put art into words

It's a jumble in there, indeed it's a jumble-sale, but there are treasures. Several of the lettering works now at the Crafts Council point to opportunities for turning a simple task or routine event into something unique.

Richard Kindersley has developed a way of carving monumental letters into brick, whether it be for the Shakespeare Centre at Stratford or a shopping centre in Cambridge. Bishop Fox's School in Taunton was inspired to ask him to make something of a new bridge over the Stockwell Stream. His tribute to the place is not only true to the setting, but inherently inscriptional. In a kind of graphic chiasmus, these visible words make three statements out of two lines.

Alan Blackman has been posting first day covers to himself since 1968. But instead of merely writing his address, he treats each envelope as a canvas. His name and address become graphic elements, wittily copying the different designs of the stamps, or complementing their celebration. Once, when sending himself the Royal Mail's 1991 Ordnance Survey stamps, he painted a map of his street in place of the address.

Michael Harvey designed more than 1,500 lettered book-jackets between 1958 and 1985, from Graham Greene to works of physics for Cambridge University Press. His work now is principally in computer-designing of typefaces, but his colourful, tactful dustwrappers — distinctively his, yet each quite individual — ought to be more celebrated. A book about them would be welcome.



Something unique: Richard Kindersley's carving of monumental letters decorates this bridge in Taunton

Workers with brushes, pens, wood, plastic, glass, slate, vellum, silkscreen, gouache, wax and metal are represented here. For some, writing is an embellishment; for others it is the determining essential, the object of scrutiny, the thing itself.

Tom Perkins is continuing to establish very spatial relationships between the curves of letters and the areas they enclose. Cutting single incisive letters into slate, he takes them right to the edges. His "g" is as sensuous as a dancer, and deeply groovy.

Others, such as Tom Kemp, have pushed letterforms beyond recognition. The feathery swirls of his *Watching the Dust Settle* — blue gouache on a large sheet of paper — have an oriental delicacy of brushwork.

Pythagoras by Annet Stirling and Brenda Berman is carved into Purbeck Portland stone, and looks at first like hieroglyphics. They have carved not letters, nor even their outlines, but suggestions of the spacing between them. The minimal message demands maximum attention, until — *Eureka!* How remarkably little information the eye needs. Just as *Homo sapiens* sees faces in a few lines or even the radiator of a car, so *Homo literatum* sees writing in the slightest trace.

The true inventiveness of such work shows up both the moribund state of the kind of formal calligraphy used for diplomas, and the tawdriness of much commercial design for posters and packing. At both extremes the problem is the same: the lettering is unrelated to the individual occasion.

Of course this show is supposed to be a mixture of characters — from the granting of peerages to the loucheness of CD-cover lett'rin' — but they ought not to jostle so. Pieces such as Stephen Raw's five-foot watercolour "g" or the elegant slate "Only the educated are free", from Lida Lopez Cardozo's workshop in Cambridge, need to be seen from afar as well as close up.

Every aspect of the show's organisation is a disservice. The title is empty. The arrangement neither guides nor provokes. The catalogue is pretentiously designed, and some copies seem either to lack pages or have them twice.

Davy M. Levy contributes an thoughtful essay, but the rest, reprinted from elsewhere, is vacuous or worse. Much of what is illustrated is not in the show, and vice versa.

Yet many of the artists triumph over these adversities. There is an alternative to the ordinary way of working. It may require experimentation. It will require time and imagination. But it can make drudgery divine, give the true satisfaction of workmanship, and make a bright mark in the world — perhaps lastingly.

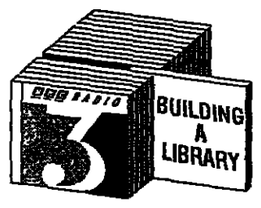
● Codes and Messages: The Living Tradition of Hand Lettering is at the Crafts Council Gallery, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 (0171-278 7700) until Feb 4

● The Letter Exchange, for people discovering lettering, can be contacted at 39 Strathblaine Road, London SW11 1RG

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

BACH'S CHRISTMAS ORATORIO
Reviewed by George Pratt



Bach unified the six cantatas for Christmas to Epiphany 1734-35 with a printed libretto. They share, too, exceptionally colourful orchestration, three layers of text, and much material borrowed from elsewhere.

Such borrowing is no reflection on Bach's integrity or on the quality of his music. He used only his own previous music, and most of the source material was for one-off celebrations — royal birthdays, a coronation anniversary — after which the music would be shelved. And, significantly, Bach borrowed in one direction only, sanctifying the secular but never de-consecrating the sacred.

The Christmas story is told through biblical text sung in recitative by an Evangelist. Only two of the 11 available recordings separate this distinctive role from that of the tenor's contemplative aria interludes: Peter Schreier narrates responsively in Helmuth Rilling's 1984 recording (Hänssler), contributing to its lively pace — fully 30 minutes shorter than the most leisurely (Gerhard Schmidt-Gaden on DHM). Anthony Rolfe-Johnson's recitative with John Eliot Gardiner (1987) is so expressive that it virtually precludes the need for translation.

Lutheran chorales, the second source of text, are remarkably diverse. Eugen Jochum (Philips) and Michael Corboz (Erato) are slow and sanctimonious. Static pauses at phrase-endings hold up Philippe Herreweghe's Ghent Collegium Vocale (Virgin) and Schreier, Evangelist-turned-conductor (Philips). Karl Richter is slower still in the earliest (30 years old) recording, (Archiv).

The composer's most vivid colours are in response to the newly written text of arias and choruses. The opening bars of Part 1 begin with five drumstrokes answered by two flutes, then oboes, cascading strings and three glistening trumpets, before the choir enters. Here, modern instruments lose out to period sounds, because, like a newly restored painting, that is how the colours and textures can be revealed again in their original freshness.

Harry Christophers (Coll 7028-2) is persuasively zestful in large-scale movements, sincere in the Virgin's contemplative lullaby. But **John Eliot Gardiner** (Archiv 423 232-2, £25.95) stands alone, with a superbly cast solo team, transparent choral textures from the Monteverdi Choir, the brilliant colours of the English Baroque Soloists and, above all, a sustained sense of heartfelt joy.

● *Recommended recordings can be ordered from the Times CD Mail, 29 Pall Mall Deposit, Barlby Road, London W10 6BL (freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk)*



■ CHOICE 1

At the Unicorn Theatre in London, *The Pied Piper* will lead a merry dance



■ CHOICE 2

***Peter Pan* comes flying into the West Yorkshire Playhouse with Una Stubbs and David Bamber**

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ CHOICE 3

Bonnie Langford brings her unique charms to Bromley for a staging of *Aladdin*



■ CHOICE 4

***Merlin the Magnificent* works his wizardry at the Royal Lyceum in Edinburgh**

Take your pick from our choice of the best post-Christmas shows around the country

Join the nation at seasonal play

LONDON

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: Revival of Ian Judge's popular but over-sweet production. Clive Francis plays Scrooge. **Barbican**, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891).

CINDERELLA: Matthew Hart's fairy-dust sprinkled work for London City Ballet. **Sadler's Wells**, Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (0171-713 6000).

COMPANY: Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sondheim's bittersweet musical on marriage. **Donmar Warehouse**, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732).

THE GLASS MENAGERIE: Sam Mendes's radiant production: Zoe Wanamaker and Claire Skinner play mother and daughter; Ben Walden is Tom. **Comedy**, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). No perf today.

HANSEL AND GRETEL: Palace Opera offer five performances of Humperdinck's opulent, popular work. **Queen Elizabeth Hall**, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242).

HYSTERIA: Henry Goodman plays Freud, with Tim Potter as Salvador Dali, in Terry Johnson's surreal, double award-winner. The funniest serious play in London. **Duke of Yorks**, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122).

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society. **Garrick**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085).

THE NUTCRACKER: An acclaimed confection by Ben Stevenson and Desmond Heeley for English National Ballet. **Festival Hall**, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242).

THE PIED PIPER: More family fun from the wizards at the Unicorn. Music by Joanna MacGregor. **Unicorn**, Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 3334).

PRIVATES ON PARADE: Tony Slattery plays the irrepressibly camp entertainer in Peter Nichols's comedy with music, set at a 1948 Army Camp Party in Malaya. **Greenwich**, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755).

RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET: A marvellously mad mix of *The Tempest* with *Great Balls of Fire* and other cosmic hits of the 1950s and 1960s. **Shaftesbury**, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399).

THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE: A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe and Malcolm McKee. **Vaudeville**, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987).

THE TOWER: Alexandre Dumas' high romantic melodrama goes way over the top for most modern tastes but is worth a visit nonetheless. Sinead Cusack plays the sex-mad and murderous queen. **Almeida**, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404).

WILD OATS: Highly enjoyable revival of John O'Keefe's 1791 farce, with Anton Lesser, James Bolamand and Andrew Sachs. Jeremy Sams directs. **National** (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 22523).

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS: Jeremy Sinden plays the ebullient Toad in the now annual return of the National Theatre production. Still delightful. **Old Vic**, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 6655).

REGIONS

BAGNOR, nr NEWBURY: E.B. White's **Charlotte's Webb** is adapted by award-winning children's playwright Joseph Robinette. **Watermill** (01635 46044).

BATH: **Sleeping Beauty**, with Keith Chegwin, Julie Mullins, Gareth Chilcott and Hinge and Brackett. **Theatre Royal** (01225 448844).

BIRMINGHAM: Join Ratty, Badger and, of course, the irrepressible **Toad of Toad Hall** in A.A. Milne's version of *The Wind in the Willows*. **Repertory** (0121-236 4455).

Darren Day, Nyree Dawn Porter and Colin Baker open Dickens's **Great Expectations** today. **Alexandra** (0121-643 1231).

BRADFORD: Hiss and boo to your heart's content with Matthew Kelly and Linda Lusardi in **Dick Whittington**. **Alhambra** (01274 752000).

BRISTOL: Anthony Newley stars as **Scrooge**: a deservedly popular show, written by Oscar-winner Leslie Bricusse. **Hippodrome** (0117-929 9444).

BROMLEY: **Aladdin**, with Gloria Hunniford, Bonnie Langford, plus George Sewell and Christopher Biggins. **Churchill** (0181-460 6677).

CARDIFF: **Moscow City Ballet** is staging two great Russian classics: *The Nutcracker* and *Sleeping Beauty*. **St David's Hall** (01222 878444).



Chris Northey in Library Theatre Company's staging of Dahl's *BFG* at Wythenshawe

CHICHESTER: The joint's really jumpin' in an irresistible tribute to Louis Jordan, **Five Guys Named Moe**. Plus a swashbuckling adventure, **Kids of Sherwood**. **Festival** (01243 781 312).

CREWE: Wayne Sleep leaps and cavorts with the rest of the cast in this year's **Cinderella**. **Lyceum** (01270 537333).

COVENTRY: Have a musical adventure in the magic forest with **The Amazing Tale of Hansel and Gretel**. **Warwick Arts Centre** (01203 524524).

EDINBURGH: Stuart Paterson's **Merlin the Magnificent** has an ageing wizard, wicked Morgana le Fay and the boy Arthur, all in a crazy Scottish castle. **Royal Lyceum** (0131-229 9697).

The Festival theatre offers Christmas in its own tradition, with **The Hot Ice Show**. **Festival** (0131-529 0000).

FOREST OF DEAN: **Welsh National Opera** is on a small scale tour with Humperdinck's *Hansel & Gretel*. Performance sung in English. **RFD College**, Coleford (01594 835588). Tomorrow, 2.30pm.

GLASGOW: Communicado's **Tall Tales for Cold Dark Nights** is based on stories passed down by Scottish travelling folk. **Tron** (0141-552 4267).

Scottish Ballet sweeps aside the snowflakes for Tinkerbell and magic dust in *Peter Pan*. **Theatre Royal** (0141-332 9000).

HIGH WYCOMBE: Millicent Martin whoops it up as the Wicked Queen in **Snow White**. **Wycombe Swan** (01494 512000).

GUILDFORD: Brian Blessed stars as the Cowardly Lion in **The Wizard of Oz**. **Yvonne Arnaud** (01483 440000).

LEATHERHEAD: Bah-humbug abounds as Richard Todd plays Scrooge in **A Christmas Carol**. **Thorndike** (01372-377 677).

LEEDS: **The World Goes 'Round** is a snazzy musical tribute to Kander & Ebb, creators of *Cabaret*, *Funny Lady*, *Chicago*, and *The Kiss of the Spiderwoman*. More traditionally, David Bamber and Una Stubbs lead the cast in **Peter Pan**. **West Yorkshire Playhouse** (0113-244 2111).

LEICESTER: Paul Kerryson directs Frank Loesser's song-packed **Guys and Dolls**. A version of Tim Supple's excellent **Grimm Tales** is on in the Studio. **Haymarket** (0116 253 9707).

MANCHESTER: It's all top hats and swirling petticoats with Harry Secombe and Ruth Madoc in **Pickwick — The Musical**. **Opera House** (0161-242 2503).

Ben Keaton, Joseph Alessi and Toby Sedgwick play the Marx Brothers in **Animal Crackers**, the stage show of the old movie mayhem. **Royal Exchange** (0161-833 9833).

MOLD: Jack Klaff stars in **Gulliver's Travels**: weird and wonderful designs by Ralph Steadman and a script by Humphrey Carpenter. **Theatr Clwyd** (01352 755114).

NORWICH: Timothy West and Angharad Rees star in Stoppard's **Jumpers**, a brilliant combination of acrobatics, philosophy, and murder. **Playhouse** (01603-760 466).

SCARBOROUGH: Tim Supple's superb staging of the really bloodthirsty **Grimm Tales** makes for an amazing, enchanting evening. **Stephen Joseph** (01723 370541).

SOUTHAMPTON: True love, jealousy and revenge, rolled into one for Dumas' **The Count of Monte Cristo**. **Nuffield** (01703 671771).

WOKING: **Dick Whittington** boasts Lesley Joseph, Rosemarie Ford, Kriss Akabusi and Robert Duncan. **New Victoria** (0483 760144).

WYTHENSHAWE: The Forum presents Roald Dahl's **The BFG**. A suitably magical production, from Manchester's Library Theatre. **Forum** (0161-437 9663).

CINEMA GUIDE

NEW RELEASES

on release across the country where indicated with the symbol ◆

◆ **THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD** (PG) A toy Indian figure comes alive. Restrained and imaginative version of Lynne Reid Banks's children's classic, with Hal Scardino and Litefoot. Director, Frank Oz. **Clapham Picture House** closed today (0171-498 3323) **MGM Chelsea**, closed today (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **West End** (01426-915 574)

CURRENT

◆ **THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT** (15) What happens when the widowed President gets a girlfriend? Not much even with Michael Douglas and Annette Bening. Director, Rob Reiner. **Empire** (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Screen: Baker Street**, closed today (0171-935 2772), **UCI Whiteleys** (0171 792 3332)

ANGELS AND INSECTS (18) Provocative games in Victorian England. Handsome but cliché drama with Mark Rylance, Patsy Kensit and Kristin Scott Thomas. Director, Philip Haas. **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914666) **Richmond** closed today (0181-332 6226)

APOLLO 13 (PG) The near fatal moon mission of 1970. Splendid effects, but commercialised drama. With Tom Hanks, Kevin Bacon and Ed Harris. director, Ron Howard. **Empire** (0990 555900)

◆ **BABE** (U) Glorious, vivacious family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast of talking animals. Director, Chris Noonan. **Barbican** (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** closed today (0171 498 3323) **Empire** (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** closed today (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171 370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 666) **Plaza** closed today (0171 437 1234) **Rio**, closed today (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

LA BELLE ET LA BETE (PG) Revival of Cocteau's enchanting version of Beauty and the Beast, with Jean Marais and Josette Day. **Everyman** (0171-435 1525), **NFT** (0171 928 3232) **Ritzy** (0171 737 2121)

BRAVEHEART (15) Overly blood-thirsty epic with Mel Gibson as the 13th century Scottish rebel William Wallace. Director, Mel Gibson. **Odeon Mezzanine** closed today, **Plaza** closed today

THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY (12) Bathing in the waters of the Hollywood Dream Factory, Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep. Director, Clint Eastwood. **Phoenix** (0171-836 2294) **Warner**

THE BROTHERS McMULLEN (15) Low-budget comedy-drama about three Irish-American brothers. Director, Edward Burns. **Gate** (0171-727 4043) **Lumiere** (0171 836 0691) **Ritzy**

CLUELESS (15) Jane Austen's Emma updated to the world of Beverly Hills teenagers. Director, Amy Heckerling. **Warner**

◆ **CRIMSON TIDE** (15) Tense drama about a nuclear submarine on the brink of war. Gene Hackman and Denzel Washington. Director, Tony Scott. **MGM Chelsea** closed today (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666), **Mezzanine** closed today (01426 915683)

FARINELLI (15) The life of an 18th century castrato opera singer. Director, Gerard Corbiau. Hmm-sensational material potential. **MGMs: Swiss Centre** closed today (0171-439 4470) **Tottenham Court Road** closed today (0171-636 6148) **Minema** closed today (0181-255 4228)

◆ **GOLDENEYE** (12) Pierce Brosnan swashes as the new James Bond in rip-roaring thriller, with a sense of humour lost with Sean Bean. **Barbican** (0171-638 8891), **MGMs: Baker Street** closed today (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** closed today (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (15) Actors struggle to mount Hamlet. Cinematic comedy from Kenneth Branagh, with Michael Maloney, Joan Collins. **Barbican** (0171-638 8891) **MGM Tottenham Court Road** closed today (0171 636 6148) **Odeons: Haymarket** closed today (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

◆ **MURDER IN THE FIRST** (15) Flashy but absorbing Alcatraz drama with Kevin Bacon, Christian Slater and Gary Oldman. Director, Marc Rocco. **MGM Haymarket** closed today (0171-839 1527) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **POCAHONTAS** (U) Strangely dull slice of American history a la Disney cartoons after Aladdin and *The Lion King*. With the voices of Mel Gibson and Irene Bedard. **Barbican** (0171-638 8891) **MGM Chelsea** closed today (0171-352 5096), **NFT** (0171-928 3232) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2323) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE SANTA CLAUSE** (U) Divorced dad becomes the new Santa Claus family comedy with a human face, featuring Tim Allen. **MGM Chelsea** closed today (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

SHANGHAI TRIAD (15) Enjoyably opulent gangster saga from Chinese director Zhang Yimou. With Gong Li. **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722)

SISTER MY SISTER (15) Modest chamber piece about a chilling French murder case. With Jodhi Richardson, Joseph May, and Julie Walters. Director, Nancy Meckler. **MGM Piccadilly** closed today (0171-437 3561)

◆ **THE SWAN PRINCESS** (U) Musical fantasy, adapting of Prince Derek and Princess Odette. Bland animated fairy tale. Director, Richard Rich. **MGM Trocadero** (0171-434 0031), **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

◆ **THREE WISHES** (PG) Hobo [illegible] **MGM Trocadero**, **Warner**

◆ **THE TIE THAT BINDS** (15) [illegible] **Plaza**, **Warner**

◆ **TO DIE FOR** [illegible] **MGM Haymarket**, **Odeon Mezzanine**, **Warner**

UNDER SIEGE 2 (15) Die Hard on a battleship. Steven Seagal is back in [illegible] Director, Geoff Murphy. **Warner**

UNSTRUNG HEROES (PG) Diane Keaton's [illegible] with her eccentric mother, with the whole thing seen through the eyes of her Mormon son. With Andie MacDowell, John Turturro. **MGM Tottenham Court Road** [illegible], **Notting Hill Coronet** closed today (0171 727 6705) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

A WALK IN THE CLOUDS (PG) Fabulous 1940s romance with Keanu Reeves as returning soldier and Aitana Sanchez-Gijon as California vineyard [illegible]. Director, Alfonso Arau. **Odeon Mezzanine** closed today (01426 915683)

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Off & Standby info. Tickets available on the day
The Royal Opera
Tomor, Sat (Last Night) 7.30 **AIDA**
The Royal Ballet
Thur 2.00 & 7.00, Fri 7.00, Mon 7.30 **LES PATINEURS/ TALES OF BEATRIX POTTER**
Fri 2.00, Sat 12.00 (Last Performance) **PETER AND THE WOLF/ TALES OF BEATRIX POTTER**

THEATRES

ADELPHI
"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Wall St Journal
SUNSET BOULEVARD
Winner of 7 Tony Awards including
BEST MUSICAL
Starring
ELAINE PAIGE
24HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
CALL 0171 344 0055 (bkg fee)
GRP BOOKING 413 3302 (bkg fee)
No booking fee for Adelphi Box Office Callers
Recorded information 0171 379 8884
Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00

ALBERY BO 0171 369 1730 cc 0171 344 4444 (no bkg fee) Grp 0171 413 3311
"FIVE STAR SHOW ...IRRESISTIBLE" D.Exp
FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE
SIXTH STOMPING YEAR
Mon-Thu 8pm Fri & Sat 5 & 8.45
LAST 3 WEEKS
Fri & Sat 6pm perf Top 4 prices 2 for 1

ALDWYCH cc 0171 416 6003 0171 420 0000 (no fee) Evgs 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.0
NIAMH CUSACK MARGARET TYZACK PAUL BHATTACHARJEE
INDIAN INK
"TOM STOPPARD'S TRIUMPH - A BEAUTIFUL AND FUNNY *FIREBALL OF A PLAY* **TO ILLUMINATE THE WEST END"**
Today. Directed by **PETER WOOD**
LAST 2 WEEKS ENDS JAN 6

AMBASSADORS 836 6111/420 0100/344 4444
FOR 5 WEEKS ONLY
TRAINSPOTTING
Award-winning play from Irvine Welsh's novel
"Feverishly Funny" Guardian
Mon-Fri at 8 Sat 5 & 8.30 Wed Mat at 5

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 0171 416 6075/ 413 3321
Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of
STARLIGHT EXPRESS
"A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" *Daily Mail*
White knuckle runs 19:45 daily
Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £12.50
EXTRA MAT 26 DEC AT 3PM

APOLLO 494 5068/344 4444/420 0000 Eves 8, Mats Thu 3, 5 & 8.15
HAYLEY MILLS
"Magnificent" FT
JENNY SEAGROVE
"Impeccable" Times
DEAD GUILTY
'Richard Harris' new play is **THE PERFECT THRILLER'** S.Times

BLOOMSBURY THEATRE B/O C.C 0171 388 8822 Till Sat
Tues-Sat at 11.30 & 3.00
SOOTY AT CHRISTMAS

CAMBRIDGE BO & cc 0171 494 5054 cc (no bkg fee) 312 1992/ *344 4444 Grps 413 3321/ 312 1970*/ 494 5454
FAME
THE MUSICAL
"FAME IS A FEEL-GOOD TRIUMPH" Mail On Sunday
"BREATHTAKING" Independent
Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
Extra Mats Thur 28 Dec at 3pm

COMEDY BO & cc 0171 369 1731 cc 0171 420 0000 (no bkg fee)
ZOE WANAMAKER in
THE GLASS MENAGERIE
by **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**
Directed by **Sam Mendes**
Eves 7.30 Mats Sat 3.00
LIMITED SEASON
Extra Mats 26 Dec & 4 Jan at 3pm
No Perfs 26 Dec & 1 Jan

CRITERION 369 1747/420 0000/ 344 4444
JONATHAN HARVEY'S NEW COMEDY HIT
RUPERT STREET LONELY HEARTS CLUB
"wickedly funny...brilliantly comic" *D.Mail*
Tues-Sat 8, Sat 4, Sun 3 & 7
"NB 2 SUN PERFS AT 3 & 7"

DOMINION Ticketlines 0171 416 6060/ 0171 420 0000 (bkg fee). Grps 0171 416 6075/413 3321/420 0200
GREASE
Starring **SHANE RICHIE** and **SAMANTHA JANUS**
"Fast, furious & fun, fun, fun." Daily Mirror
Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3pm
TICKETS AVAILABLE - APPLY DAILY TO BOX OFFICE
EXTRA MAT 26 DEC 3PM

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL SS cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/*344 4444/420 0000 Grps* 494 5454/413 3311/312 8000
MISS SAIGON
"THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY *OF OUR TIME"*
NOW IN ITS
7TH SENSATIONAL YEAR!
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm
Extra Mat Thur 28 Dec at 3pm
Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O.
FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS
0171 494 5080 (BKG FEE)

DUCHESS cc 0171 494 5070 cc 344 4444 (no bkg fee)/836 2428 (bkg fee) *0171-413 3321* Eves 8pm, Wed mat 3pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30
"A SAUCY COMEDY" E. Std
NOW IN ITS 5th YEAR
DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER
"Gloriously Outrageous" T.Out

DUKE OF YORK'S 0171 836 5122/9837 cc 420 0000/344 4444 (24 hrs. no fee)
ROYAL COURT CLASSICS
Henry Goodman Aisling O'Sullivan
Fred Pearson Tim Potter
HYSTERIA
Terry Johnson's **"CUSTARD PIE OF COMIC BRILLIANCE"** Time Out
Best Comedy Olivier Award
FOR 5 WEEKS ONLY
Eves 7.30, Mat Sat 3pm

FORTUNE 0171 836 2238
"A real treat for 3-9 year olds" Gdn
THE ENCHANTED TOYSHOP
Today at 11am

GIELGUD Shaftesbury Ave Inc cc 0171 494 5530 (no bkg fee) cc 0171 344 4444 (no bkg fee) Groups 0171 494 5454
JULIA McKENZIE
COMMUNICATING DOORS
by **ALAN AYCKBOURN**
"A MELODRAMATIC COMEDY THRILLER WONDERFULLY FUNNY AND GENUINELY SCARY" *D Tel*
"with the audience in turn ROARING WITH LAUGHTER AND LEAPING FORWARD IN FRIGHT" Independent
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

HAYMARKET 930 9800 cc 344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee)
THE PETER HALL COMPANY
ALAN BATES GEMMA JONES
'superb'Times 'marvelous'Gdn
THE MASTER BUILDER
'Peter Hall's fine new staging'D.Tel
'Not to be missed on any account' S.Tms.
ONLY 2 MORE WEEKS!
Mon-Sat 7.45, Mats Wed, Sat 3pm

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 494 5454/413 3311/930 6123
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
Directed by HAROLD PRINCE
NOW BKG TO DEC 96
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
Apply to Box Office daily for returns
Extra Mat Thu 28 Dec at 3.00

LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC 0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1 9d serv chg) 420 0000 Grps 0171 312 8000
JIM DALE
RETURNS TO THE WEST END
"A MAJOR THEATRICAL EVENT" Daily Mail
OLIVER!
2ND SPECTACULAR YEAR
"LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE" S.Times
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30
Extra Mat Thur 28 Dec at 2.30
SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL
NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS

LYRIC Shafts Ave BO/cc 0171 494 5560 cc 0171 344 4444 (no bkg fee)
Nichola McAuliffe Graham Turner and Frank Thornton
HOBSON'S CHOICE
by Harold Brighouse
"MAGNIFICENT...an evening that brims with laughter" D.Tel
"Frank Hauser's deliciously piquant revival is A DELIGHT" Std
Eves 7.30 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00
EXTENDED TO 3 FEB

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252 Grps 0171 620 0741/24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000
OLIVIER Tonight 7.15, Tomor 2.00 & 7.15 **A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC** Music & lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, book by Hugh Wheeler.
LYTTELTON Today 2.15 & 7.30, Tomor 7.30 **WILD OATS** John O'Keeffe
COTTESLOE Today 2.30 & 7.30, Tomor 7.30 **CYRANO** Edmond Rostand, adapted by Jatinder Verma, rendered into verse by Ranjit Bolt

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3311/930 6123
THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL
CATS
Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00
Extra Mats 27, 28 Dec at 3pm
No Mat 25 Dec
LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED
WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION. PLEASE BE PROMPT.
Bars open at 6.45
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 Grps 0171 413 3311
THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL
LES MISERABLES
NOW IN ITS 11TH RECORD-BREAKING YEAR
Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30
Extra Mat Wed 27 Dec at 2.30
Latecomers not admitted until the interval
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 */344 4444/420 0000 (fee)*
DAVID CASSIDY
STARS FOR 2 WEEKS ONLY IN WILLY RUSSELL'S
BLOOD BROTHERS
STEPHANIE LAWRENCE
CARL WAYNE
...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval" *D Mail*
Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4
"EXTRA MAT 27 DEC AT 3"

PLAYHOUSE 0171 839 4401 */0171 420 0000/0171 344 4444*
AN ALL STAR CAST IN RAY COONEY'S NEW COMEDY HIT
FUNNY MONEY
"LAUGHS GALORE...A WINNER" D Exp
"Better than Feydeau...priceless" D Tel
Mon-Sat 8.00, Mats Thu 3.00, Sat 5.00
"EXTRA MAT 27 DEC AT 3"

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 734 8951 cc (24hr no bkg fee) First Call 420 0100 */ 0171 344 4444 Groups 930 6123*
BEST MUSICAL
Laurence Olivier Awards 93
"YOU'D BE CRAZY TO MISS IT" D.Mail
CRAZY FOR YOU
"IS A GREAT, GLORIOUS, GLAMOROUS GOLDMINE OF A SHOW" S.Times
Eves 7.45, Mats Thu & Sat 3.00
Extra Mat Wed 27 Dec at 3pm
GOOD SEATS AVAILABLE THIS WEEK

PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5972/420 0232/344 4444/416 6052 Grps 0171 420 0200/413 3321
TOMMY STEELE
WHAT A SHOW
"TOMMY'S SHOW PACKS FLASH, BANG, WALLOP" Eve Standard
Evg Mon-Sat 8pm, Mats Wed 3pm, Sat 5pm
Extra perf today Mat 3pm
LAST 2 WEEKS!
MUST END JAN 6

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400 First Call 420 0100 (24hr Bkg fee) 344 4444 Groups 420 0200
Cameron Mackintosh presents
MARTIN GUERRE
A New Musical by BOUBLIL & SCHÖNBERG
FROM 22 MAY 1996

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LONDON
(0171 638 8891)
BARBICAN:
A CHRISTMAS CAROL Tonight 7.15
THE PIT: **SON OF MAN** Tomor 7.15
STRATFORD (01789 295623)
RST **THE TAMING OF THE SHREW** Tonight 7.30
SWAN: **THE RELAPSE** Tonight 7.30
TOP: **THE PAINTER OF DISHONOUR** Tomor 7.30

SHAFTESBURY 0171 379 5399 344 4444 (24hr/bkg fee)
UNTIL JAN 13 - 4 WKS ONLY
RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET
THE COSMIC XMAS PARTY
"deliriously addictive" *D Tel*
Mon-Thurs 8.00, Fri Sat 5 & 8.30
Extra mat Dec 27 at 2.30

SHAFTESBURY 0171 379 5399 0171 344 4444 (24hr/no bkg fee) *Groups 0171 413 3321*
TOMMY
PAUL KEATING As Tommy **KIM WILDE** As Mrs Walker
Previews 20 February. Opens 5 March

STRAND THEATRE Box Off & cc (no fee) 0171 930 8800 *cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/420 0000* Groups 0171 413 3321/0171 930 6123
BUDDY
The Buddy Holly Story
"BRILLIANT" Sun
BUDDY
"WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel
BUDDY
Tues-Thurs 8.0 Fri 5.30 & 8.30
Sats 5.00 & 8.30, Suns 4.00
ALL SEATS 1/2 PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF
7th HEAVENLY YEAR

ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1443 (no bkg fee) 0171 497 9977 (bkg fee) Groups 0171 312 1994 (no bkg fee)
Eves 8, Tues 2.45, Sat 5 & 8
44th Year of Agatha Christie's
THE MOUSETRAP

WHITEHALL 369 1735/344 4444/ 420 0000
"BEST NEW MUSICAL IN TOWN...BRILLIANT"MoS
ROY ORBISON STORY
GUEST-STARRING P.J. PROBY
½ PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF
Tues-Thu 8, Fri, Sat 5.30 & 8.30, Sun 4

VICTORIA PALACE BO & cc (no fee) 0171 834 1317 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/312 1598/497 9977 Groups *0171 312 1997* (no fee) /0171 930 6123 (bkg fee)
BRIAN CONLEY
"Gives the performance of the decade"Mail on Sunday in
JOLSON
"A resounding hit" Sun. Tel
JOLSON
"Worth walking a million miles to see"D.Mail
JOLSON
Evgs Mon-Sat 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
Now booking to 28 Sep 96
Some good seats available on *the day of perf*

A magical Christmas adventure until 6th January
The ENCHANTED TOY SHOP
Fortune Theatre 0171 836 2238
"A real treat for 3-9 year olds" Guardian

298,000 READERS OF THIS SECTION ATTEND THE THEATRE AT LEAST 2/3 A YEAR. 152,000 GO TO THE THEATRE ONCE EVERY 2/3 MONTHS.

To advertise in The Times theatre listings please call our entertainments team on 0171 481 1982 or fax 0171 481 9313.

All major credit card accepted

Law Report December 26 1995 Privy Council

Difference between alternative and cumulative remedies

Personal Representatives of Tang Man Sit v Capacious Investments Ltd

Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Steyn and Mr Justice Hardie Boys

[Judgment December 18]

There was an inconsistency between an account of profits, whereby a plaintiff took the money the defendant received from the use he made of the plaintiff's property, and an award of damages representing the financial return the plaintiff would have received for the same period had he been able to use the property. The remedies were alternative not cumulative, and the plaintiff could have one or other remedy but not both.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council so stated in dismissing an appeal by the defendant, the Personal Representative of Tang Man Sit, and allowing a cross-appeal by the plaintiff, Capacious Investments Ltd, from the Court of Appeal of Hong Kong. That court had allowed in part the defendant's appeal and varyied the order made by Master Woolley in the High Court of Hong Kong so that the plaintiff was entitled to damages of HK$11 million for breach of trust and not HK$16,937,197.

Mr David Oliver, QC and Miss Jacqueline Crawford for the defendant; Mr Christopher McCall, QC and Mr Michael Gibbon for the plaintiff.

LORD NICHOLLS said that the appeal arose out of breaches of trust committed by Tang Man Sit. By a deed dated March 20, 1982, Mr Tang agreed to assign 16 houses to the plaintiff. No assignment was executed. In 1985 Mr Tang let some and progressively all of the houses. The plaintiff did not know or approve of the lettings at the time.

In 1991 the plaintiff started his action. The defendant was Mr Tang's personal representative. The plaintiff claimed (i) an order that the defendant assign the houses to the plaintiff free of incumbrances, (ii) a declaration that the plaintiff was from at least March 20, 1982, the equitable owner of the houses, (iii) an account of all secret profits in respect of the use and letting of the houses, and payment of all such secret profits, and (iv) damages for breach of trust. On an application by the plaintiff for summary judgment Mr Justice Mayo made orders as sought.

The defendant produced an account showing certain receipts and the plaintiff obtained a charging order over adjoining land belonging to Mr Tang's estate. In June 1993 the defendant paid the plaintiff HK$1,807,774 in respect of the account of profits and the charging order was discharged.

Meanwhile, the plaintiff had been taking steps to proceed with the assessment of damages. The claim was made under two heads.

Head A was for damages for loss of use and occupation, comprising loss of market rental from January 1985 to January 1993. After deducting the UK$1,807,774, and UK$189,984 paid in respect of current rental payments, the net amount claimed under that head was almost HK$7 million.

The claim under head B was for HK$14 million, as damages in respect of the loss caused by the diminution in value of the property due to (i) the wrongful use and occupation and (ii) the property having been wrongfully incumbered by the tenancies. The defendant assigned the houses to the plaintiff, but vacant possession was not given.

Master Woolley assessed damages at HK$16,937,197. He assessed the amount due under head A at HK$7,934,955 and under head B at HK$11 million. He deducted the HK$1,997,758 received by the plaintiff.

The defendant appealed. The Court of Appeal held that, having received payment of HK$1,997,758 on account of the profits made from letting the houses, the plaintiff could not thereafter claim compensation for having been kept out of possession of the houses.

It had made its election between two inconsistent remedies, but its election regarding head A did not preclude it from pursuing its claim under head B. Accordingly, the court reduced the damages award to HK$11 million. From that decision the defendant appealed, and the plaintiff cross-appealed.

Mr Oliver submitted that the Court of Appeal was correct to hold that the plaintiff had elected to take *the remedy of an account of profits.* The plaintiff passed the point of no return at the latest when it enforced, and accepted, payment of HK$1,807,774.

If the plaintiff chose to take Mr Tang's receipts it could not at the same time complain of the lettings and obtain damages in respect of the adverse incidents thereof.

Accordingly, he submitted, since the plaintiff had elected to take an account of profits, it was barred from pursuing any claim for damages based on the existence of the lettings or on the terms of the lettings or on the inevitable consequences of the lettings. Head B was such a claim. Hence the plaintiff was not entitled to recover any damages.

Their Lordships said that the law frequently afforded an injured person more than one remedy for the wrong he had suffered. Sometimes the two remedies were alternative and inconsistent.

The classic example was an account of the profits made by a defendant in breach of his fiduciary obligations and damages for the loss suffered by the plaintiff by reason of the same breach. The former was measured by the wrongdoer's gain, the latter by the injured party's loss.

Sometimes the two remedies were cumulative. Cumulative remedies might lie against one or more than one person. A plaintiff might have a cause of action in negligence against two persons in respect of the same loss.

Faced with alternative and inconsistent remedies a plaintiff had to choose, or elect, between them. He could not have both.

He was required to choose when, but not before, judgment was given in his favour and the judge was asked to make orders against the defendant. Court orders were intended to be obeyed. The court should not make orders which would afford a plaintiff both of two alternative remedies.

In the ordinary course, by the time the trial was concluded a plaintiff would know which remedy was more advantageous to him. There would be nothing unfair in requiring him to elect at that stage.

Occasionally that might not be so. That was more likely to happen when there was a default or a summary judgment. A plaintiff might not know how much money the defendant had made from the wrongful use of his property. It might be unreasonable to require the plaintiff to make his choice without further information.

To meet that difficulty, the court might make discovery and other orders designed to give the plaintiff the information he needed, and which in fairness he ought to have, before deciding upon his remedy: see *Island Records Ltd v Tring International plc* ([1995] 3 All ER 444). The court would take care to ensure that such an order was not oppressive to a defendant.

The normal rule was that the decision made when judgment was entered was made once and for all, but like all procedural principles those regarding election between alternative remedies were not fixed and unyielding rules.

They were no more than practical applications of a general and overriding principle governing the *conduct of legal proceedings*, namely, that proceedings should be conducted in a manner which struck a fair and reasonable balance between the interests of the parties, having proper regard also to the wider public interest in the conduct of court proceedings.

The procedural principles applicable to cumulative remedies were different. Faced with cumulative remedies a plaintiff was not required to choose. He might have both remedies.

He might pursue one or other remedy, or both, as he wished. He might obtain judgment for both and enforce both judgments. When the remedies were against two different people, he might sue both, concurrently or successsively, and obtain judgment against both. He might obtain judgment against one, and take steps to enforce the judgment. That did not preclude him from then suing the other.

There were limitations to that freedom. One was the so called rule in *Henderson v Henderson* ((1843) 3 Hare 100). In the interests of fairness and finality a plaintiff was required to bring forward his whole case against a defendant in one action.

Another limitation was that the court had power to ensure that, when fairness so required, claims against more than one person should all be tried and decided together.

A third limitation was that a plaintiff could not recover in the aggregate from one or more defendants an amount in excess of his loss. Part satisfaction of a judgment against one person did not *operate as a bar to the plaintiff* thereafter bringing an action against another who was also liable, but operated to reduce the amount recoverable in the second action. The principle of full satisfaction prevented double recovery.

The leading authority on election was *United Australia Ltd v Barclays Bank Ltd* ([1941] AC 1). Contrary to the view sometimes expressed, there was no inconsistency between the various speeches if the different considerations applicable to alternative remedies and cumulative remedies were kept firmly in mind. The principles in that case were applied in *Mahesan v Malaysia Government Officers' Co-operative Housing Society Ltd* ([1979] AC 374).

In the present case, to some extent at least, the remedies claimed by the plaintiff included two alternative and inconsistent remedies. An account of the profits Mr Tang had made from the lettings was an alternative remedy to damages for the loss of use of the houses.

The unusual feature was that matters went awry at the time of summary judgment. The plaintiff should have been required, so far as the two remedies were inconsistent, to choose which it would take but it was not required to elect.

Instead the order gave the plaintiff both remedies. The point was overlooked by everybody.

Thereafter the plaintiff proceeded to enforce both remedies. It did not chose to take an account of profits rather than payment of damages. The defendant did not pay the HK$1,807,774 in the mis*taken belief that the plaintiff had* done so.

In the unusual circumstances it would make no sense to treat receipt of HK$1,807,774 as an election by the plaintiff for an account of profits and against damages, and to do so would be extremely unfair to the plaintiff. The belatedness of the plaintiff's choice did not prejudice the defendant.

The defendant submitted that there was an inflexible rule of law whereby, irrespective of intention, satisfaction of what was due under one remedy was an irrevocable election to have that remedy.

Satisfaction, it was submitted, included part satisfaction, as happened in the present case. Having accepted payment, it was not thereafter open to the plaintiff to proceed with a damages claim.

That submission was misconceived. Complete satisfaction barred a plaintiff from subsequently pursuing any other remedy in respect of the same loss. That principle was not in point here.

Acceptance of the payment of HK$1,897,774 signified nothing, given that the order had, wrongly, provided for the plaintiff to have both remedies and that the plaintiff was actively pursuing both.

The Court of Appeal fell into error in concluding that the plaintiff elected to take the remedy of an account of profits rather than damages. Their Lordships could detect no error in Master Woolley's judgment.

On the facts there was no inconsistency between the awards of damages under heads A and B. Their Lordships recommended that the appeal should be dismissed and the cross-appeal should be allowed.

Solicitors: Edwin Coe; Kingsford Stacey.

Injunction power after judgment

Zeeland Navigation Company Ltd v Banque Worms

Before Mr Justice Waller

[Judgment December 14]

A court had the power to grant an injunction on a summons in the action after judgment.

Mr Justice Waller so stated in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an application by summons dated August 2, 1995 by Banque Worms, a company incorporated in France, for an order for an injunction restraining Zeeland Navigation Company Ltd from raising in proceedings in Cyprus certain matters which the bank alleged could have and should have been raised before Mr Justice Rix in the Commercial Court in May 1994.

The hearing was in chambers and the judgment released with the permission of the judge.

Mr Richard Southern for the plaintiff; Mr Victor Lyon for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE WALLER said that he should deal first with the strict jurisdictional question whether the bank could by a summons in the action after judgment seek the form of relief it did and whether the court had power to grant such relief.

The starting point was *Halsbury's Laws* (4th edition (1991) volume 24 paragraph 958) where the last sentence read "however . . . and after judgment a party who violates the spirit of the decree may be restrained from so doing on motion, and it is not necessary to begin a new action specifically claiming an injunction".

The authority cited for that proposition was *Grand Junction Canal Company v Dimes* ([1849] 17 Sim 38). In addition, *Booth v Leycester* ([1837] 1 Keen 579) bore out the proposition.

It was submitted by Mr Southern that the authorities relied on by Mr Lyon, and in *Halsbury*, were ancient authorities and should not be followed in the context of the modern rules of court.

In his Lordship's view, the modern rules allowed for the granting of the form of injunction requested. Order 29, rule 1 of the Rules of the Supreme Court expressly provided for the granting of an injunction by any party to a cause or matter before or after the trial of the cause or matter, whether or not a claim for the injunction was included in that party's writ.

In order to aid a party who had achieved a judgment, a *Mareva* [asset freezing] injunction could be granted after judgment. The court must, on any view, retain power to assist the party to obtain the fruits of any judgment, if necessary by granting an injunction.

It did not seem to his Lordship a matter of surprise that *Halsbury's Laws* contained the paragraph and sentence that it did and there was no reason why, pursuant to Order 29, rule 1, the court did not retain a power to grant an injunction where someone was acting contrary to the spirit of the court's decree.

As regarded declaration, it seemed to his Lordship that the court, particularly if it would otherwise have granted an injunction, had to retain the power to grant a declaration and such a jurisdiction would be sparingly exercised.

Mr Southern had to accept that if the bank had issued an originating summons then the court would have jurisdiction to grant the relief sought. It seemed to his Lordship somewhat strange, that if there was an action in being, as there was here, in that the plaintiffs were appealing the decision of Mr Justice Rix, and if the court would have the power to issue a *Mareva* injunction on the issuing of a summons in the action, that in some way the bank should be put out of court by virtue of having simply issued a summons as opposed to an originating summons.

The authorities certainly seemed to support the view that the court had jurisdiction to grant an injunction to restrain proceedings which had already been disposed of by the English court.

However, it was right to say that there was no case where the English court had injuncted foreign proceedings where they offended the principle in *Henderson v Henderson* ((1843) 3 Hare 100) [that it was an abuse of process not to litigate all aspects of the matter at the same time].

His Lordship could see no reason why that power did not exist, albeit it might be a relevant factor that it was that principle of the doctrine of res judicata on which reliance was being placed when the discretion came to be exercised and indeed that might account for the absence of authority.

There was also, it should be said, no case which offered real guidance as to when it was appropriate to injunct foreign proceedings in reliance on the res judicata doctrine in the light of recent House of Lords authorities which, as it seemed to his Lordship, emphasised a greater need for caution than might well at one time have been the case.

Before injuncting someone from proceedings whether partially or at all in a foreign jurisdiction, the court had to exercise caution: see *E. D. & F. Man (Sugar) Ltd v Yani Haryanto (No 2)* ([1991] 1 Lloyd's Rep 161), where Mr Justice Steyn had refused to grant an injunction, and *British Airways Board v Laker Airways Ltd* ([1985] 1 AC 58), where Lord Scarman had put the balancing exercise very clearly.

However, what must not be forgotten about the latter case was there was no possibility that the American court would have countenanced an application to stay the proceedings.

His Lordship considered the facts and decided, balancing the competing private and public interests, that it was not right to grant an injunction.

The application would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Sinclair Roche & Temperley; Watson Farley & Williams.

Adjusting tax by lifting assessment

Glaxo Group Ltd and Others v Inland Revenue Commissioners

Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Millett and Sir Ralph Gibson

[Judgment December 14]

Following a transfer pricing inquiry and a direction given by the Board of Inland Revenue under the provisions of section 485 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 on transactions between associated persons, any tax adjustments necessary to give effect to such a direction could be made by increasing an existing open assessment to corporation tax.

Section 485(3) did not require a further assessment to be raised on a taxpayer within the usual six-year time limit because under the provisions of section 50(7) of the Taxes Management Act 1970 the Inland Revenue could request an increase to be made to take account of the direction at the hearing before the commissioners of the taxpayer's appeal.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by three wholly owned subsidiaries of Glaxo Wellcome plc from the order of Mr Justice Robert Walker (*The Times* November 21, 1995; [1995] STC 1075) refusing to make declarations that section 485 could not apply unless there had been a direction by the Board of Inland Revenue and thereafter an assessment within the appropriate time limit.

Section 485(1) of the 1970 Act contained provisions for sales at undervalue between associated persons in different countries to be treated for tax purposes as a transaction at a price that the property would have fetched had the transaction been between independent persons dealing at arms' length.

Section 485(3) provides: "The preceding provisions of this section shall not apply in relation to any sale unless the board so direct, and where such a direction is given all such adjustments shall be made, whether by assessment, repayment of tax or otherwise, as are necessary to give effect to the direction."

Section 17 of the Finance Act 1975 extended the scope of section 485 and the provisions were re-enacterd in sections 770, 772 and 773 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

Section 50 of the Taxes Management Act 1970 provides: "(3) Any officer of the board may attend every appeal and shall be entitled . . . (b) to give reasons in support of the assessment. . .

"(7) If on any appeal it appears to the commissioners that the person assessed ought to be charged in an amount exceeding the amount contained in the assessment, the assessment shall be increased accordingly."

Mr John Gardiner, QC and Mr Jonathan Peacock for the Glaxo companies; Mr Ian Glick, QC and Mr Michael Furness for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that the issue, on which substantial amounts of tax could be at stake, was whether the Revenue was out of time for applying the transfer pricing provisions. The principal transaction which had given rise to the dispute was the transfer by Glaxo of the manufacturing technology of vanitidine hydrochlorine, the active ingredient of the drug Zantac, to a wholly owned subsidiary in Singapore.

The question in issue was whether, as Glaxo contended, following a direction by the board under section 485(3), the Revenue was required to make a further assessment before the computation of the companies' profits could be adjusted to take account of the transfer pricing provisions; or whether, as the Crown contended, without any further assessment the Revenue could ask for an open assessment, that is, an assessment that was under appeal, to be increased to take account of those provisions. The question was important as the Revenue was out of time for making further assessments in relation to many of the years of account in dispute.

Glaxo's arguments had largely concentrated on section 485(3). However, the resolution of the dispute did not depend on the true construction of that provision, which presented little difficulty, but on the effect of section 50(7) of the Taxes Management Act 1970.

Section 485(3) did not make an assessment mandatory. What was mandatory was the making of "all such adjustments . . . as may be necessary to give effect to the direction".

Section 50(7) entitled the commissioners to increase an assessment on the hearing of a taxpayer's appeal if the evidence showed that to be appropriate. But the commissioners could only act on evidence (section 50(6)) and it was clear that they were entitled to receive evidence which would lead to an increase in the assessment.

Notwithstanding observations to the contrary based on the terms of what was now section 50(3) of the Act by Lord Diplock in *In re Vanderwell's Trusts* ([1971] AC 912, 913), such evidence could be tendered by a tax inspector or obtained by the commissioners pursuant to a request by an inspector.

The functions of an inspector at the hearing of an appeal were not restricted to what was expressly authorised by section 50(3). As a party to an appeal in which the assessment was at large, in that it might be increased as well as reduced or extinguished, he was entitled to ask the commissioners to exercise any of the powers which Parliament has entrusted to them and to adduce evidence in support of his application.

Lord Justice Leggatt and Sir Ralph Gibson agreed.

Solicitors: Slaughter & May; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Secondary offence requires primary crime

Regina v Loukes

Before Lord Justice Auld, Mr Justice Scott-Baker and Mr Justice Hidden

[Judgment November 10]

Where a driver had not been convicted of dangerous driving, another person could not be convicted of aiding and abetting causing death by dangerous driving contrary.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held, when allowing the appeal against conviction of Noel Martyn Loukes on October 27, 1994, at Sheffield Crown Court (Judge Henham) for aiding abetting counselling or procuring the causing of death by dangerous driving contrary to section 1 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, as amended by the Road Traffic Act 1991. The appellant had been sentenced to two years imprisonment and disqualified for driving for four years.

The appellant and his brother were partners in a firm of haulage contractors. The appellant's role was to oversee the maintenance and servicing by the firm's mechanics of its fleet of vehicles. On July 10, 1993, one of the firm's drivers was driving a tipper truck on the M1 when part of its propellor shaft broke causing the truck to crash into a car killing its driver.

Mr Wilfred Steer, QC and Mr Christopher Tonge for the appellant; Mr William B. Phillips for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE AULD said that the first ground of appeal was that the trial judge having directed the jury to acquit the driver of tipper truck of the principal offence, misdirected the jury by directing that the appellant could be found guilty of the secondary offence.

The effect although not the form of the ruling in regard to the driver of the truck was that there was no evidence of the commission of the actus reus of the principal offence.

The actus reus of the offence of dangerous driving as defined by section 2A(2) of the 1988 Act, as amended, had the objective criterion of obviousness to a competent and careful driver, whether or not supplemented by any particular knowledge of the accused driver.

The appeal was allowed on that ground.

Solicitors: Attey Bower & Jones, Rotherham; Crown Prosecution Service Sheffield.

Bank terms rarely implied

Cauxell Ltd v Lloyds Bank Ltd

Before Mr Justice Cresswell

[Judgment November 7]

The courts would rarely imply terms into letters of credit or first demand guarantees. There was a need for certainty in commercial transactions and that was particularly important in the case of obligations assumed by banks under letters of credit, first demand bonds and associated cross-undertakings.

Mr Justice Cresswell so held in the Queen's Bench Division when deciding a preliminary issue in favour of Lloyds Bank plc. Bank Melli Iran had contended that Lloyds were liable to Melli under a Lloyds counter-undertaking in respect of a sum of money.

The Iranian Meat Organisation had required a guarantee as a condition of signing a contract with the plaintiff, Cauxell Ltd, for the supply of meat. Lloyds issued a request to Melli for a performance guarantee which incorporated conditions precedent relating to the signing of the underlying contract and a confirmed letter of credit.

Mr A. Smith, QC and Mr Guy Philipps for Melli; Mr Hugo Page for Holbeck Holdings Ltd, secondary purchasers; Mr Raymond Cox for Lloyds.

MR JUSTICE CRESSWELL held that terms contended for by Melli were not to be implied as a matter of business efficacy for, inter alia, the following reasons:

1 The commercial structure of letters of credit and first demand bonds required that the relevant obligations owed by banks were clear and certain, and that need for certainty applied with equal force when the question was whether liability under a bond or counter-undertaking had commenced.

2 Lloyds' liability commenced upon receipt by Melli of Lloyds' authenticated confirmation that (i) the underlying contract had been signed, and (ii) the terms and conditions of any subsequent letter of credit confirmed by a UK clearing bank in respect of this contract were acceptable to Lloyds' principals.

3 His Lordship was of the opinion that international bankers would not expect Lloyds to take reasonable steps to fulfil conditions precedent and/or to take reasonable steps to ascertain the position with regard to the contract and the letter of credit. International bankers would expect Lloyds to act upon instructions from its principals before confirming that the underlying contract had been signed and the terms and conditions of any subsequent letter of credit confirmed by a UK clearing bank were acceptable to Lloyds' principals.

Solicitors: Stephenson Harwood; Campion Martin Jackson, Ely; Cameron Markby Hewitt, Bristol.

Scots Law Report December 26 1995 House of Lords

Registration of land after bankrupt conveyed it 'for love and affection'

Short's Trustee v Keeper of the Registers of Scotland and Another

Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Mustill, Lord Woolf and Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead

[Speeches December 7]

Where a person, on a conveyance, had been registered in the Land Register of Scotland as a registered owner in land but subsequently the trustee in sequestration of the grantor of the conveyance obtained a decree of reduction of the conveyance on the ground that it was a gratuitous alienation within section 34 of the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 1985, the Keeper of the Registers of Scotland was not bound by section 2(4)(c) of the Land Registration (Scotland) Act 1979 to register the decree.

The trustee could only seek to have effect given to the decree by rectification of the register within section 9 of the Act and, if he did not fall within that section, he was entitled to be indemnified under section 12(1)(b).

The House of Lord so held dismissing an appeal by George Douglas Laing, as permanent trustee of the sequestrated estate of Alexander Short, from the interlocutors of the First Division at the Inner House of the Court of Session (the Lord President (Lord Hope), Lord Allanbridge and Lord Mayfield) (*The Times* December 30, 1993; 1994 SLT 65), whereby the First Division refused a reclaiming motion by the trustee against the dismissal, on December 18, 1992, by the Outer House, the Lord *Ordinary (Lord Coulsfield)* (1993 SLT 1291) of a petition by the trustee seeking judicial review of a decision of the Keeper of the Registers of Scotland refusing to register a decree of reduction obtained by the trustee in an action against Mrs Tai Lee Chung, the registered owner of two flats at 62 Great George Street, Glasgow.

On October 7, 1986 Mr Short conveyed two flats to Mr Shek Chung, having sold them for £2,500 each. The dispositions were registered in the Land Register of Scotland and Mr Chung was registered as the owner of each as from October 31. By dispositions dated May 20, 1987 Mr Chung conveyed those flats to his wife, Mrs Tai Lee Chung, "for love, favour and affection". Mrs Chung was registered as the owner of each flat from May 28, 1987.

On June 3, Mr Short's estates were sequestrated under the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 1985. The trustee was appointed as permanent trustee. On January 25, 1988 Mr Chung died and Mrs Chung was confirmed as his sole personal representative on April 8. The trustee raised an action of reduction of the dispositions under section 34 of the 1985 Act.

The Lord Ordinary (Lord Weir) granted the decree and his interlocutor was affirmed on March 15, 1991 by the Second Division (the Lord Justice Clerk (Lord Ross), Lord McCluskey and Lord Sutherland) (*Short's Trustee v Chung* (1991 SLT 472)).

The trustee applied to register the decree of reduction in the land register but the keeper refused to register it on the ground that it was not registrable under section 2(4)(c) of the 1979 Act. The trustee then sought judicial review of the keeper's decision.

Section 2 of the 1979 Act provides: "(4) There shall also be registrable — (c) any other transaction or event which (whether by itself or in conjunction with registration) is capable under any enactment or rule of law of affecting the title to a registered interest in land but which is not a transaction or event creating or affecting an overriding interest."

Section 9(3), as amended by paragraph 21 of Schedule 2 to the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Act 1985, provides: "If rectification under subsection (1) above would prejudice a proprietor in possession — (a) the keeper may exercise his power to rectify only where — . . . (ii) all persons whose interests in land are likely to be affected by the rectification have been informed by the keeper of his intention to rectify and have consented in writing; (iii) the inaccuracy has been caused wholly or substantially by the fraud or carelessness of the proprietor in possession; . . . (b) the court or the Lands Tribunal for Scotland may order the keeper to rectify only where subparagraph (i), (iii) or (iv) of paragraph (a) above applies. . ."

Section 12, as amended by section 46(1) of and paragraph 28 of Schedule 1 to the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984, section 28(1) of and paragraph 10 to Schedule 1 to the Family Law (Scotland) Act 1985 and section 75(1) of and paragraph 15 of Schedule 7 to the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 1985, provides: "(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a person who suffers loss as a result of — (a) rectification of the register made under section 9 of this Act; (b) the refusal or omission of the keeper to make such a rectification; . . . shall be entitled to be indemnified by the keeper in respect of that loss. . .

"(3) There shall be no entitlement to indemnity under this section in respect of loss where — . . . (b) the loss arises in respect of a title which has been reduced, whether or not under section 34(4) or section 36(5) of the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 1985 . . . as a gratuitous alienation or fraudulent preference . . . (c) the loss arises in consequence of the making of a further order under section 5(2) of the Presumption of Death (Scotland) Act 1977. . ."

Mr James McNeill, QC, Mr Michael Hart, QC, of the English Bar, and Mr Robert Howie for the trustee; Mr Matthew Clarke, QC, and Mr Robert Reed, QC, for the keeper; Mr Andrew Smith for Mrs Chung.

LORD KEITH said that the short argument for the trustee was that the decree of reduction of the dispositions was an event falling within the terms of section 2(4)(c).

The argument for the keeper was that the decree did not fall within that section because the scheme of the Act was that any such decree could receive effect only by way of rectification of the register under section 9.

It was apparent that the provisions about rectification of the register contained in sections 9 and 12 of the Act were in some respects extremely obscure and difficult to understand.

Leaving aside section 9(3)(a)(i), (ii) and (iv), the effect of subparagraph (iii) was that the keeper could not rectify an inaccuracy in the register in any case where the proprietor in possession would be prejudiced, nor could the court order him to do so, unless the inaccuracy had been caused wholly or substantially by the fraud or carelessness of the proprietor in possession.

Section 12(3) set out 15 situations where the right to indemnity was excluded. They included, in paragraph (b), various situations where the loss resulted from a title having been reduced or varied by order of the court under a number of enactments, including section 34 of the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 1985, with which the present case was concerned. Orders under those enactments might have the effect of divesting one person of heritable property and vesting it in another.

Section 12(3)(a) and (c) appeared to contemplate that a rectification of the register causing loss might have occurred as a result of an order of the court made under one or other of the specified enactments. But under section 9(3)(a)(iii) no rectification could be made if it would prejudice the proprietor in possession, unless that proprietor had caused the inaccuracy through his fraud or carelessness.

If that proprietor had suffered *loss he must be prejudiced. If he* would be prejudiced he would be unlikely to consent to a rectification under section 9(3)(a)(ii), though that subparagraph certainly contemplated the possibility.

In the great majority of cases, where an order might be made under any of the enactments specified in section 12(3)(b) or (c), particularly the matrimonial enactments and the Presumption of Death (Scotland) Act 1977, the prospect of the proprietor in possession having caused the so-called inaccuracy by his fraud or carelessness must be extremely remote.

On any view it followed that many orders of the court under those enactments would apparently be incapable of receiving effect by way of rectification of the land register.

No doubt it was reasonable that a person who had caused an inaccuracy by his fraud or carelessness should not be entitled to an indemnity on rectification of it, but section 12(3)(n) specifically excluded indemnity "where . . . the claimant has by his fraudulent or careless act or omission caused the loss".

The need for paragraphs (b) and (c), so far as the proprietor in possession was concerned, was therefore not apparent, although possibly paragraph (n) was intended to be a catch-all provision covering a variety of situations.

It might be that the draftsman had in mind possible cases where the proprietor in possession consented to rectification following an order for reduction or rectification *notwithstanding that he would be* prejudiced and suffered loss.

However, under section 12(1)(b) indemnity might also be available where the keeper had refused or omitted to make a rectification. The question was whether the right arose where the keeper had refused to rectify because he had no power to do so under section 9(3)(a) or only where he had such power but had failed to exercise it. Presumably the former was the correct view because in the latter case the court could, and would on application to it, order him rectify under section 9(3)(b).

The person in whose favour an order of the nature referred to in section 12(3)(b) and (c) had been made was not, on a proper construction of those paragraphs, a person who had suffered a loss of the nature thereby contemplated in the event of the keeper refusing to rectify the register so as to give effect to the order.

Such a person, however, undoubtedly suffered a loss through the keeper's refusal to rectify the register and was therefore entitled to an indemnity from him for it.

A reference to the Reid Committee report, *Registration of Title to Land in Scotland* (July 1963) (Cmnd 2032) and the Henry Committee report, *Scheme for the Introduction and Operation of Registration of Title to Land in Scotland* (October 1969) (Cmnd 4137) showed that by section 9 Parliament did not intend that reduction of a deed constituting a title or midcouple should in general be an occasion for rectification of the register. The possibility of *such a reduction was, however,* within the contemplation of Parliament: see section 12(3)(b).

The intention must, therefore, have been that the reduction should only lead to rectification of the register if the case fell within the limited parameters of section 9(3)(a), particularly subparagraph (iii).

It would be unjust if in a case not falling within those parameters the person in whose favour the reduction had been granted would have no right to indemnity following a necessary refusal to rectify the register. Nothing in section 12(3)(b)(c) led properly to the conclusion that he was intended to be excluded from the right.

The correct interpretation of sections 9 and 12 was that the remedy intended to be available to a person who had obtained the reduction of a deed, forming the basis of a particular entry in the register, was either rectification of the register, if section 9(3)(a)(ii) or (iii) applied, or, if it did not, then indemnity under section 12(1)(b).

Thus, Parliament could not have intended that the reduction should be an "event which . . . is capable . . . of affecting the title to a registered interest in land" within the meaning of section 2(4)(c), so as to be registrable.

Lord Jauncey delivered a concurring speech. Lord Mustill, Lord Woolf and Lord Nicholls agreed.

Solicitors: MacRoberts, Edinburgh; Treasury Solicitor for Solicitor to the Secretary of State for Scotland, Edinburgh; Lawford & Co, Richmond; for Gillam Mackie, SSC, Edinburgh.

Village life is changing, but **Rodney Hobson** finds a familiar institution that can still be saved

Pint and a postal order at the local that sells stamps

Following in the family tradition

RACHEL PIMPERTON is the fifth generation of her family to run a sub-post office in Lincolnshire. So keen was she to follow the family tradition that last July she opened up in the front room of her home in Toynton All Saints about 13 miles north of Boston. The village people are quite used to buying their stamps in someone's home. The previous sub-postmaster had a similar arrangement at his bungalow.

Toynton, together with the neighbouring Toynton St Peter, boasts about 100 houses but no other shop apart from the post office.

Miss Pimperton says: "I get about 10 to 15 customers a day. Most of the people who come to me walk. They are mainly elderly people and it is too far for them to travel the two miles to the nearest post office at Spilsby. The job here was advertised and I thought I would do it. If I hadn't taken it on, the post office would have gone." The family tradition began when Miss Pimperton's great-great-grandmother took on the village post office at Swaby, further north along the A16.

Miss Pimperton, 23, was already working full-time with her father, the postmaster at Spilsby, a market town 12 miles from Skegness. She still puts in afternoon stints there. She says: "I was not always interested in running a post office. My dad had to force me to come to work at Spilsby when I left school. Now I thank him for it. I really enjoy my job."



"It's another example of small business creating jobs — yours!"

CUSTOMERS can order a pint and a postal order at The Anchor public house in Gunthorpe near Nottingham. Jeremy and Amanda Scorer came to the rescue when the sub-postmaster retired and the post office closed.

Mr and Mrs Scorer, both in their early 30s, make an ideal couple to run a combined pub and post office. He worked in a pub with his father for seven years; she worked with her parents running a post office.

They took over The Anchor eight years ago at the same time that Scottish & Newcastle bought Home Brewery, which supplied the pub. They like the village and, with two young children, are happy with the local schools. The population of Gunthorpe is less than 1,000 but it sustains four licensed premises, two pubs and two restaurants.

Mr Scorer says: "Trade is very seasonal. We are adjacent to the River Trent and it is a very popular fishing spot. We rely on the sunshine and the day trippers."

The Scorers bought the tenancy when they moved in and have a three-year tenancy agreement which is rolled over. They pay rent, reviewed every three years, for the fixtures and fittings, but buy their own carpets and chairs. Scottish & Newcastle owns the land and buildings. It is an arrangement that allows both sides the option of bringing the relationship to a close but one that gives them scope to invest for the future.

Mr Scorer says: "I am quite confident that the faith we have put in the brewery is not unfounded. They allow us sufficient security to do the work we want to do. We put forward a plan for improvements and negotiate with the brewery. They know that improvements will increase the turnover. This year they paid for a conservatory on the front of the pub and a new car park."

The opportunity to make the pub even more of a social focal point cropped up when the village lost its post office. The Scorers turned an outbuilding that fronted on to the high street into a post office and general store. While conversion work was being carried out, Post Office Counters provided a mobile post office in the car park.

Mrs Scorer says: "When the old sub-postmaster sold his premises, we feared the village would lose its post office altogether so we put in a tender. It is an invaluable service. The nearest post office is less than a mile and a half away but there is no bus service. In any case, pensioners would rather have a walk down to our shop. It's a social visit as well as an essential one.

"The brewery was all in favour of it. They appreciated the goodwill it would create in the village and backed us 100 per cent."

The post office is open from 9am to 5pm for four days plus two half days and provides employment for a local woman. In fact, the Scorers are a major local employer, providing jobs for five full-time staff and up to 20 part-timers during the summer. Trade at the shop has gradually increased and the hot summer brought sales to boat trippers and campers. Plans to improve moorings on the Trent will help to secure the future of Gunthorpe's post office.



Post hosts: Jeremy and Amanda Scorer at their pub and post office

Keeping the heart of the community alive

CASH from the Development Board for Rural Wales helped to save the post office at Llangattock, a village of 2,500 people off the A40 west of Abergavenny.

Mike Powell, a Welshman who had been living in southeast England, returned to the Valleys under no illusions when he took over the premises. He says: "Rural post offices are always going to be fairly marginal and this was never going to be a wonderful way of earning a fortune. I went into the project in quite a detailed way and drew up business plans. But I knew the village had fought hard to get its post office brought back."

Llangattock lost its post office in January 1994 when the postmistress retired. The village suffered a double blow with the death of the owner of the only other shop there, a general grocery store. Mr Powell felt there was a chance of making a living if he combined the two.

The development board made a grant to help with refurbishing and enlarging the old stores, which reopened last January, offering the full range of postal services plus groceries, gifts, videos and an off-licence. The shop also acts as an agent for dry cleaning and flowers.

Peter Saunders, chairman of the board's social and community development committee, justified the grant: "We are very aware that if communities are to be viable it is vital that this kind of project should be encouraged. The Llangattock store has also offered part-time job opportunities for two local people."

But with the nearest post office less than two miles away at Crickhowell, Mr Powell is under no illusions that local people can shop elsewhere.

Top tips to put a smile on the face of Scrooge

Ebenezer Scrooge, the successful businessman who was ruined by an attack of conscience, lives on. Pens, light bulbs and even junk mail all provide opportunities for the tightfisted to save money.

Simon Chick, marketing manager at Company Barclaycard, says the drive to cut costs can be taken to extremes when companies are constantly seeking ways to improve cashflow and efficiency. He has drawn up a list of the oddest ideas that have been put to him.

He cites the case of a travel agency in the North East where each new member of staff was to be issued with one pen, one pencil and one notepad. Replacements would be issued only on proof that the old item had been used up.

A legal practice on the South Coast suggested passing all junk mail to an office junior who could separate any clear white unprinted sheets of paper. These could then be distributed round the office as scrap paper for jotting down notes.

Saving electricity taxes the minds of many companies. A mail order house in London proposed to issue staff with woolly jumpers and scarves during the winter months so the heating could be turned down. An accountancy firm in East Anglia figured that half the light bulbs could be removed from each room. The remaining 60 watt bulbs could be replaced with 40 watts.

A music publisher in Edinburgh hit on the notion of sending all the staff out to lunch at the same time so that the heating could be turned off for an hour. Only the office junior needed to remain to answer the telephone and shiver. This wheeze has the added benefit of preventing staff from making personal telephone calls during the lunchbreak.

A property firm in the Midlands planned to cut cleaning costs by allocating a space round each employee's desk which it would be their responsibility to clean. An alternative idea was to start a staff cleaning rota.

Cutting Post-it notes into three or four strips would radically increase the number of messages that could be recorded on each pad, a public relations consultancy in the South East realised.

Really sneaky was the market research company in London that hit on the idea of filling empty mineral water bottles with tap water, placing them in the fridge overnight and presenting them to the staff next day as genuine mineral water.

The company said: "It will keep them cool in hot weather and make them think that the company is investing in their wellbeing."

Mr Chick says: "Although these tips are quite impractical, they do help to highlight the exasperation many firms feel when it comes to the need to save money. The list I have put together represents the more eccentric approaches to cost savings I have heard. Company Barclaycard would not recommend them as they could have a severe impact on staff morale. There are more practical ways of cutting costs without cutting quality.

"Two major black holes are expenses and petty cash. Money obviously needs to be spent on travel and entertainment but most companies are unable to track accurately who is spending what and where."

Company Barclaycard has launched a new procurement and payment system after running a pilot programme in 80 leading companies, including BOC, Lucas Industries, British Sugar and Anglian Water. The system allows companies to order and pay for goods without issuing purchase orders, reconciling invoices and making separate payments to suppliers.

Alan Gooderham, director of Corporate Card at Barclays, says: "British companies spend over £37 billion a year processing purchase orders and authorising payment. Half of this, £18.75 billion, is spent on processing purchases for low-cost items with an average value of just £40. The goods and services being bought amount to £15 billion, almost £4 billion less than the cost of the administration involved."

RODNEY HOBSON

THE TIMES

TRAVEL OFFERS

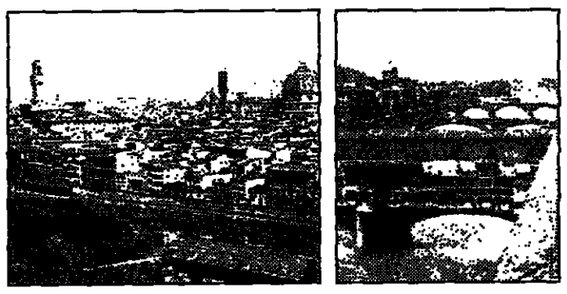
ITALIAN CITY BREAKS

AWEEKEND IN FLORENCE

3 NIGHTS FROM JUST £259

DEPARTURES IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1996

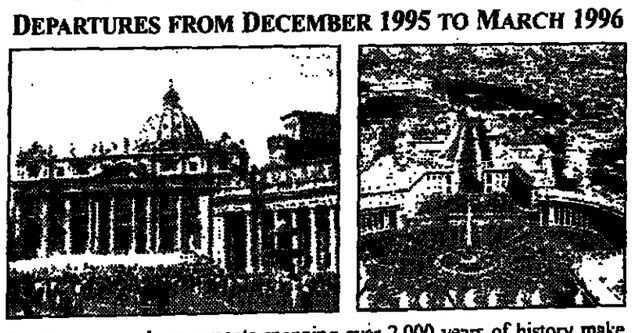
Stretching along the banks of the River Arno and overlooked by the Tuscan hills, Florence offers a wealth of architecture from the Renaissance period. Visit the Uffizi Gallery and many other museums which display masterpieces by da Vinci, Michelangelo and Botticelli. Alternatively, cross the ancient Ponte Vecchio and explore the most authentic quarter of this city or relax and browse through the many shops and boutiques around the piazzas. Optional excursions take you through the Tuscan countryside and Chianti vineyards to medieval Siena and San Gimignano.



AWEEKEND IN ROME

3 NIGHTS FROM JUST £259

DEPARTURES FROM DECEMBER 1995 TO MARCH 1996



Museums and monuments spanning over 2,000 years of history make this a superb weekend break in Italy's capital. There are so many architectural sights to discover including the ancient Roman Colosseum and Forum, the Vatican City and St Peter's Square. Visit Michelangelo's fresco in the Sistine Chapel and admire the view from the top of the Spanish Steps. Alternatively, browse in the exclusive designer shops along the Via Condotti or stroll through the gardens of the Villa Borghese to escape the bustle of city life. Optional excursions include a visit to the Frascati vineyards, a classical tour of the city or a chance to explore Rome by night.

THE PRICE FOR BOTH HOLIDAYS INCLUDES

- Scheduled flights from London Gatwick or Heathrow to Florence or Rome.
- FREE coach travel to the airport from selected pick-up points.
- Transfers between the airport and your hotel.
- Three nights accommodation in a four star city hotel with continental breakfast.
- A half day guided city tour.
- Services of a tour manager.

SEND FOR YOUR BROCHURE(S) TODAY
TELEPHONE FESTIVE HOLIDAYS ON
BROCHURE HOTLINE
0990 553355
or return the coupon below to:
THE TIMES ITALIAN CITY BREAKS OFFER,
FESTIVE HOLIDAYS LIMITED,
ACORN HOUSE, GREAT OAKS,
BASILDON, ESSEX, SS14 1AB
This holiday is operated by Festive Holidays, a company independent of Times Newspapers Ltd.
ABTA V106X ATOL 2172

Italian Cities Offer
Please forward me an itinerary and a booking form for
☐ FLORENCE WEEKEND
☐ ROME WEEKEND
Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) .....
Address: .....
Post Code: .....
☐ If you do not wish to receive further information from Times Newspapers or companies specially selected by us, please tick the box. TIM

BUSINESS FOR SALE

MODEL AGENCY and school complete 'Turnkey' packages available throughout the UK from £40,000. For application details write to Box No 2544

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

IF YOU don't respond to this ad. in 6 months you'll wish you had! 01626 862216

WRITE your own pay cheque: The harder you work the more you earn. Full training given. Tel. (01327) 262 784

CASH FLOW OPPORTUNITY
* Part-Time Business
* 4-6 Hours Per Week
* Operate From Home
* No Selling Involved
* Small Capital Outlay
* Full Training & Service Backup
* Using Your Home PC
* 12 Months Figures Available
For a FREE Information Kit Phone FREECALL 0500 140 141
COMSTRAD LTD
2nd Floor, 55 St James's Street, London SW1
Leading the way in Computer Technology

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

IF your 1996 Acquisition plans include new U.S. manufactured Aircraft, a lease transaction through our Foreign Sales Corporation may be beneficial to you. Please contact Summit International at 001-518-487-4462 so that we can explain the advantages of our FSC Lease structure.

START A PROFITABLE IMPORT/EXPORT AGENCY
Can be operated from home, part or full-time. No capital/no risk. Send for your FREE Booklet.
ImpEx Consultants TT, PO Box 304, London W5. Or tel: 0181-997 4471 (24hrs) fax: 0181-998 8792

THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE
01789 868186

RACEHORSE OWNERSHIP
CHRISTMAS PRESENT!
Barry Hills, has a well bred yearling filly available for purchase, own-sister to PAINTED MADAM (IRE) winner of 3 races and £32,479 at 2 yrs, inc. Doncaster Stakes (Listed) and placed 6 times inc. three Listed races.
This filly was purchased from Public Auction and will be sold to cover costs only. A partnership will be considered.
She can be viewed by appointment.
B W Hills
South Bank, Lambourn, Berks, RG17 7LL.
Telephone: 01488 71548.

WHY ON EARTH DO I WANT TO OWN AN OSTRICH?
For private individuals and corporate buyers the Ostrich Farming Corporation looks after the birds for you, offering the purchaser:-
51.6% taxation annual return.
All year round income.
The commercial breeding life of the ostrich is 25 years.
An asset that continues to appreciate and is wholly owned by you.
The opportunity of Capital Gains Tax benefits.
Outright purchase with single payment.
Various purchase levels.
A product that grows financially and naturally.
Ostrich produce has been described as "the cash crop of the nineties".
The five key revenue generating markets are detailed in the free video brochure and market report. To find out more -
TELEPHONE (01623) 422700
FAX (01623) 422800
Office hours 9am-6pm Sun 10am-4pm
OVERSEAS +44 (0) 1623 422700
SHERWOOD HOUSE, RANSOM WOOD PARK, SOUTHWELL ROAD WEST, MANSFIELD. NG21 0HJ.
the Ostrich Farming Corporation Ltd
When purchasing the ostrich is an asset wholly owned by the purchaser, with no investment or share participation in the Ostrich Farming Corporation Ltd.

BUSINESS SERVICES

No 1 OFFSHORE COMPANY SPECIALISTS
Full Nominee Management Accounting and Admin services available at reasonable cost
ISLE OF MAN £250
BAHAMAS £325
BV ISLANDS £325
CAYMAN £650
GIBRALTAR £250
IRISH (NON-RES) £225
JERSEY £495
MAURITIUS £225
SEYCHELLES £225
UK LTD £95
ALL CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
For immediate service & our FREE 145 page full colour brochure call
RICHARD DIXON (IMD) OVERSEAS COMPANY REGISTRATION AGENTS LTD
RAMSEY, ISLE OF MAN
TEL: +44 1624 815544
FAX: +44 1624 812347
RICHARD COOK, BSc (Hons) OVERSEAS COMPANY REGISTRATION AGENTS LTD
72 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON
TEL: +44 (171) 355 1096
FAX: +44 (171) 495 3017
OCRA
OFFSHORE WITH CONFIDENCE
A MEMBER OF THE EUROTRUST INTERNATIONAL GROUP SA
FREEPHONE 0800 269900

BUSINESS SERVICES

A BASE in Marble Arch, address, tel ans, fax, serviced offices, sec. Est 1979! 0171 258 0077

BANKRUPTCY Association of Great Britain and Ireland Est. 1983. Tel: 01482 658701

CHEQUES CASHED Inc Not Neg & A/C Payee If you have received a cheque and do not wish to use a bank account, we can cash it confidentially. Cash X-Press 01604 705663, 24 hrs

24 hour 'live' Telephone Answering.
Divert your own phone whenever you choose, or use one of our direct lines and let us be your office - responding with your companies name & greeting.
Service starts from only £26 per month
XMAS AND NEW YEAR PACKAGES AVAILABLE
FREEPHONE 0800 908 908
MESSAGE plus

COMPANY CREDIT Ratings instantly by fax. Searches, fr £14, directors accounts 0800 716 859 Fax. 01284 822221

GOOD Software eats debts you can issue your own County Court summonses, statutory demands off your PC save money and improve your cash flow Only £199 0171 207 7838

YOUR OFFICE in London 70p/Day, accom, mail, Tel Ans, Fax, Tlx, Srcs Servs 0171 436 0766

LTD. COMPANIES £49 incl prof quality service. Tel 0161 928 9865/8729 Energize.

A PHONE NO. FOR LIFE? Get the real real thing with Oftel approved 07 No's Pick the best, call FleXtel on 0701 0701 701.

LOANS & INVESTMENT

PRINCIPAL Lenders offer bridging and short term property loans. Any propositions considered. 01803 875050

BUSINESS SERVICES

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT ENDS UNCERTAINTY
Disloyalty can have catastrophic results. We provide discreet advice and a comprehensive range of amazing electronic products.
Free catalogue on request.
LORRAINE ELECTRONICS
716 Lea Bridge Road, London E10 6AW
0181-558 4226
PROTECTING YOUR BEST INTERESTS

TENDERS & CONTRACTS

INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION

Invitation to Tender

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) is the world's largest voluntary reproductive health and family planning organisation. The Federation is currently working in more than 140 countries around the world, providing family planning services and information at local and regional levels.

IPPF's Arab World Region, incorporating fourteen countries within the region, has signed an agreement with the European Community for the supply and distribution of contraceptives to Algeria - one of the fourteen countries.

IPPF hereby invites sealed bids from contraceptive manufacturers of EC member countries and Algerian manufacturers.

The invitation to tender consists of conditions for supply contracts financed by the European Economic Community and a technical annex.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain a complete set of bidding documents by submitting a written request to:

Mr. Tim McLeod, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Arab World Regional Office, Regent's College, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4NS. United Kingdom.

Requests for a complete set of bidding documents can only be made until 12 January 1996. Subsequent bids must be received at the above address on or before 5.00 p.m. London time, on 12 February 1996. Bids will be opened at 10.00 a.m. on 13 February 1996.

Taking a position on true cost of living really well

Is your slightly sore head today the result of an almost unobtainable Château Lafite, and a seductive Château d'Yquem with the *pudding*? Or was it, at less than a twentieth of the cost, the latest sound red made by an Australian in Bulgaria, and Shampagne?

Did you try to get your aunt a £400 room in a top hotel, and find it was booked solid? Or did you buy her a £40-odd bargain shopping break in a lesser hotel? And just when did they repeal the law of supply and demand?

Some joker in America has been delving among the detailed prices listed by the Department of Commerce, and compiled a new index: the CLRW, or Cost of Living Really Well. And while the common man's index chugs along at about 3 per cent a year, he estimates that the CLRW rose last year by a full 16 per cent. And is even that living *really* well? I would wager that the Lafite-d'Yquem or super-de-luxe index, taking one year with another, beats it handsomely.

However, if computing is your bag, costs have fallen steeply. That is the trouble with these knit-your-own indices: they are arbitrary. Tell me the answer you want, and I'll supply the question. In spite of this, I find the CLRW entirely credible because it bears out an important theory first *put forward 18 years ago by Fred* Hirsch, a much-lamented friend.

Hirsch's book, *Social Limits to Growth*, would be a classic if it were not an uncharacteristically heavy read. All the same, its central thesis is clear enough: a definition of what the rich really want. What nobody else has, that's what. This may look painfully obvious: but the implications are what matter.

Hirsch calls these dog-in-the-manger items "positional goods". In essence, this novel term means restricted — or in economic language, highly inelastic — supply.

Among the most obvious positional goods are: houses with protected views; luxury resorts on isolated beaches; clubs you can't get into; the best table at an exclusive restaurant.

But economically there is little difference between these literally positional things, and others that are simply hard to get: antiques, fine wines, old masters, even the disgusting productions of Damien Hirst — all of them qualify.



ANTHONY HARRIS

Even super-mobile absurdities such as the McLaren sports car are "positional", in the Hirsch sense: you can't afford one. I have it, and you can't — that is the essence of position.

Does this matter? As long as there were only a few super-rich, the parade of their yachts and trophy wives was simply a side-show. But things are very different now. We have not just had economic growth since Hirsch wrote his book, but biased growth: its major benefits have been restricted to the really rich, while their numbers have grown spectacularly. We all know about the increasingly Dickensian social scene that has resulted; it is imposing its own costs on the rich — private guards, expensive insurance, taxes to pay for more dole and more prisons. This takes a bit of the gilt off.

The Hirsch effect, roughly measured by the CLRW, is less remarked, but more powerful. As the rich get richer and more numerous, they bid up the prices of the things they want until demand is reduced to fit the restricted supply. Does this take all the gilt off? May it even be so powerful that more means less? That is what the CLRW suggests, since high incomes have on average risen less than 16 per cent.

It would be interesting to test this proposition with a more scientific effort at measurement; for if the rich are indeed fated to an Alice in Wonderland race, in which you have to run faster and faster to stay in the same place, what is the point of getting richer?

The arguments about the incentive value of low taxes look fraudulent, and there seems little reason to tolerate social injustice. This conclusion might even occur to Tony Blair, the leader of the Labour Party, as it did once to David Lloyd George, given a decade or two. Or if Blair looks house-trained, the rich can worry about the recent revival of communism.

Meanwhile, the market economy produces its own rough justice. The rich do spend, and the money does trickle down; sometimes perversely into silly jobs, but sometimes guided by wise philanthropy — one market that does not suffer from Hirsch inflation.

And even selfish spending does good in odd ways: the demand for really outlandish holidays may be saving more wildlife and rainforest than the Greens can protect with their diminished navy. If we don't like social policies that mean soaking the rich — and that idea will come round again one day — we can at least milk them.

And even if you were restricted to plonk, don't envy them too much.

The old song needs a new chorus:
It's the rich wot 'as the worries
Though the poor gets all the blame.

RADIO CHOICE

A Boxing Day of wonders

Box of Delights. *Radio 4 FM, 2.00pm.*

I do not know where to begin or end in listing the goodies packed into John Peacock's two-part version of John Masefield's fantasy for children and children-at-heart adults. I never thought there could be anything to rival *BBC Television's serial a few years back.* I was wrong. Let me pick a few random plums in David Blount's production for Radio 4. They include Lionel Jeffries's magical Punch and Judy Man, Alastair Sooke's fearless young adventurer Kay Harker, and — gloriously over the top — Donald Sinden's arch villain Abner Brown. I must also praise Neil Brand's plot-sensitive musical score and wondrous sound effect that put the Christmas seals on a production already festooned with them.

I'll Eat My Hat. *Radio 5 Live. 11.05am.*

Radio eventually learnt the lesson that some sports are best left to experts. Either that or they are best left alone. Desmond Lynam recalls some of them in this hugely enjoyable half-hour. One commentator, covering the 1934 Isle of Man TT races, philosophised thus during a dead period: "It seems a tremendous long time before the next man turns up . . . much longer than the short period which elapses between the time they leave here and get back again." A taxi-driver, delivering a written archery script to Broadcasting House, was taken for the writer, whipped into the studio, put in front of a microphone, and made to read the report. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Claire Sturgess **8.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Nicky Campbell meets Keith Richards **3.00pm** Dave Pearce **7.00** *Evening Session* Rewind **9.00** Star Review: Bruce Dickinson selects his highlights from the year **10.00** Bon Jovi live at Wembley **12.00** Mark Tonderai

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Roger Royle **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.30** Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Ginger Rogers **1.00pm** That's Life **3.00** Ed Stewart **6.00** Dame Judi Dench: Music on the Brain **7.00** The Huddlines Bumper Christmas Annual **7.30** Superhero Hall of Fame **8.30** Sinatra (4/6) **9.00** Across the Board: Monopoly is 60 years old **10.00** The Christmas Robbin' **10.30** Martin Kelner **12.05am** Sue McGarry

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.05am Now the Good News (r) **7.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.05** Island Line **10.05** Brief Lives: a look back at Harold Wilson, Yitzhak Rabin, Peter Cook and Fred Perry **11.05** *I'll Eat My Hat.* See Choice **11.30** Sport on Five: Football, including the FA Carling Premiership matches at Arsenal, Chelsea, West Ham and Southampton. Cricket: fourth Test; racing from Kempton Park **5.00pm** Sports Report **5.06** Six-O-Six **7.35** The Tuesday Match: Blackburn v Manchester City **10.05** Voices of the Old Firm **11.05** Ages of Being **11.35** Spaced Out **12.05am** Bosnia at Christmas **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm and Lowri Turner **7.00** Sean Bolger **9.00** Moz Dee **10.00** James Whale **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. **5.00am** Newsday **5.30** What's News **5.45** On the Move **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Sinatra **7.00** World News **7.15** *Peter Pan* **7.30** New Ideas **7.50** The Planets **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Concert Hall **9.00** News in German **9.15** Christmas Just a Minute **9.45** Sport **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf: *Peter Pan* **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Drama. *A Child's Christmas in Wales* **12.00** News **12.05pm** Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Pick of the World **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack **3.00** News in German **3.15** On Screen **3.30** Omnibus **4.00** News **4.15** Sportsworld **4.30** News in German **5.00** Just a Minute **5.30** Business **5.45** Sport **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** News in German **7.00** News **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Megamix **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** Business **9.15** Britain **9.30** Meridian **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** *The World Today* **10.45** *Sport* **11.00** World News **11.10** Encore **11.15** Anything Goes **11.45** Country **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** What's News? **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** News **1.10** Press Review **1.15** On Screen **1.30** Ports of Call **2.00** Newsday **2.30** Andy Kershaw **3.00** World News **3.15** Sport **3.30** Discovery **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** *Peter Pan*

CLASSIC FM

4.00am *The Muppets'* Classic Christmas **5.00** Stanley Glasser **6.00** Mark Griffiths **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Celebrity Choice **2.00pm** Christmas Ballet **4.00** Robert Booth **6.00** *The Lucerne Legend* **8.00** John Julius Norwich **10.00** Sex of the Best **1.00am** Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyte **10.00** *Mark Forrest* **2.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Tchaikovsky (String Quartet No 1 in D); Mozart (Symphony No 39 in E flat); Holst (Wind Quintet); Telemann (Festive Suite in A); **8.05** Strauss (Second Waltz: Sequence, Der Rosenkavalier); Handel (Ombra cara, Radamisto); Hahn (Le Bal de Béatrice d'Este)

9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Tchaikovsky (Suite, Swan Lake); Sacchini (Dardanus); Wagner (Siegfried Idyll)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Holst (Of one that is so fair and bright); Canteloube (Songs of the Auvergne); **10.15** Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 3 in G); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in B flat, Hammerklavier); **11.35** Holst (Scherzo); Canteloube (Songs of the Auvergne, selection); arr Holst (Personel hodie)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Saint-Saëns (Romance in D flat; Piano Trio No 1 in F; Variations on a Theme of Beethoven) (r)

1.00pm The BBC Orchestras. BBC Philharmonic under Yan Pascal Tortelier performs Weber (Overture, Der Freischütz); Brahms (Piano Concerto No 2 in B flat: Garrick Ohlsson)

2.05 Oxbridge Organs. Stephen Cleobury plays the English organ in King's Chapel, King's College, Cambridge

2.50 Amsterdam Mahler Festival. Humphrey Burton presents the sixth of 15 concerts, featuring Thomas Hampson, baritone, and Wolfgang Rieger, piano

5.00 The Music Machine. Jeremy Siepman on performing music by Chopin (r)

5.15 Fairest Isle Songbook (r)

5.30 Fairest Isle: The Light Brigade. Stephen Banfield explores a neglected tradition in British orchestral music (1/2) (r)

6.30 Eton Choirbook. The Choir of King's College, Cambridge, under Stephen Cleobury (r)

7.30 Amsterdam Mahler Festival. *With Barbara* Bonney, soprano, Jenifer Larmore, mezzo, and the Vienna PO under Riccardo Muti

9.10 The Fortunate Cat. Roy Fisher and Mel Hill discuss whether it is easier to play a gig than to write a poem

9.20 Penguin Café Orchestra, recorded live at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol

10.45 The Shellac Show. Music on 78s, including Dargomizhsky, D'Erlanger and Parry

11.30-12.30am Music Restored. Newly discovered theatre pieces by Louis Grabu and music by Henry Purcell

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW only) **6.00** News **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Over the Counter (r) **6.55** Weather **7.00** Today **7.25, 8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day

8.40 A Christmas Carol (2/5) **8.58** Weather

9.00-10.00, 11.00-4.00pm Test Match Special (LW only)

9.00 News (FM only) **9.05** Tumpty-Tumpty-Tumpty-Tum (FM only). The evolution of the signature tune

9.35 Shelf Lives (FM only). The Barbie doll

10.00-10.30 News; La Mia Italia

10.00 Daily Service (LW only)

10.15 Children's BBC Radio 4: A Ghost for Christmas (LW)

10.30 Walters's Festive Frolics. Eastbourne (2/5)

NB: FM only until 4pm.

11.00 News; Trying to Connect You. Communicating by telephone (1/2)

11.30 At Bertram's Hotel (2/5)

12.00 News; Trumpton Riots

12.25pm The Heritage Quiz

1.00 The World at One (FM, LW)

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; Box of Delights, by John Masefield. See Choice

3.30 Kaleidoscope: Miller's Tales (1/4) (r)

4.05 Radio Lives. The comedian Frankie Howerd (r)

4.45 Christmas Short Story: A Goose for Christmas, by Catherine Merriman

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 News 6.15 It's Your Go! *Scrabble. Family games (1/4)*

6.30 Cook's Tour. First of three programmes on Peter Cook

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 A Friend of a Friend . . .

8.00 The Unheard Prophet

8.30 Devout Sceptics (r)

9.00 The In Touch Christmas Quiz, with Peter White

9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature Salman Rushdie talks about *The Moor's Last Sigh* (r)

10.00 The World Tonight

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Memo from David O. Selznick

11.00 Take Me to the River. Stephen Jameson explores the avenues of virginity

11.30 Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures (r)

12.00 News, incl 12.27am Weather

12.30 The Late Book: Miss Smilla's Feeling the Snow

12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO UK.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson**

Resignation of stout party

TIMES must be tough in banking. Standing nearly 20 minutes at a checkout at a supermarket off-licence in Bangor, Co Down, last Friday was Sir George Quigley, chairman of Ulster Bank, NatWest's provincial subsidiary. Sir George, formerly a top Stormont mandarin, had resigned the previous day from his position as founding chairman of the Royal Hospitals Trust, which runs Belfast's famous Royal Victoria Hospital, strongly critical of the way the NHS is now being run. As dozens of others queued to pay for their Christmas booze, purchases averaging £60 to £70, Sir George waited patiently, clutching a single can of stout priced 89p.

Staff bonus

CHRISTMAS lasted a day longer this year for staff at the world's largest drugs company. Employees at the merged Glaxo-Wellcome began their Christmas holidays a day earlier after managers decided they deserved extra time off as a reward for their forbearance regarding the takeover.

Mickey's delight

IT IS one of the most awaited events of the US business year: news of Michael Eisner's salary. This year, the head of Walt Disney pocketed $14.8 million, up from $10 million last year. Almost all of it is bonus and stock options on top of his meagre $750,000 basic salary, but it is still small change compared with the $40 million he made in 1988.

Shelf life

ARCHIE NORMAN, chief executive, and a host of other HQ staff from Asda will be putting their feet up today. As well they might. Before Christmas, the majority of Asda's 1,300 HQ staff left their desks and headed for the shelves. "It's traditional that HQ staff help out at an Asda branch of their choice where they pack shelves, sweep floors, serve on the till, or do whatever the store manager orders," an HQ gal on her mobile telephone told me from the fruit and veg department. The troops assure me it's good to mingle with customers, and "Archie pops into any store of his choice". My fruit and veg friend adds: "Archie is a confident checker-outer."

Racing cert

A NICE festive touch came in Panmure Gordon's *Weekly News*, devoted to engineering issues, with an item headed "Investment opportunities" — at Kempton Park today, Barton Bank at 3/1 in the King George VI Stakes, and at Chepstow tomorrow in the Welsh Grand National, Super Finish at 7/1.

Filling the gap

WISE to the possibility of a dearth of news over Christmas, the TUC has sent out four stories in a special package labelled "TUC's Christmas Crackers". Sounds like hype? Watch the papers and judge for yourself.

Charity bliss

LINKLATERS & Paines, the law firm, can look back on its 1995 fundraising for BLISS (Baby Life Support Systems) and The London Connection with pride. The aim was to raise £25,000. Last week a cheque for £40,000 was handed over to its chosen charities.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 23

MARLEY
(c) Jacob Marley is Scrooge's deceased partner in *A Christmas Carol. Marley appears to Scrooge as a ghost and warns him, by his own example, of the consequences of selfishness and avarice.*

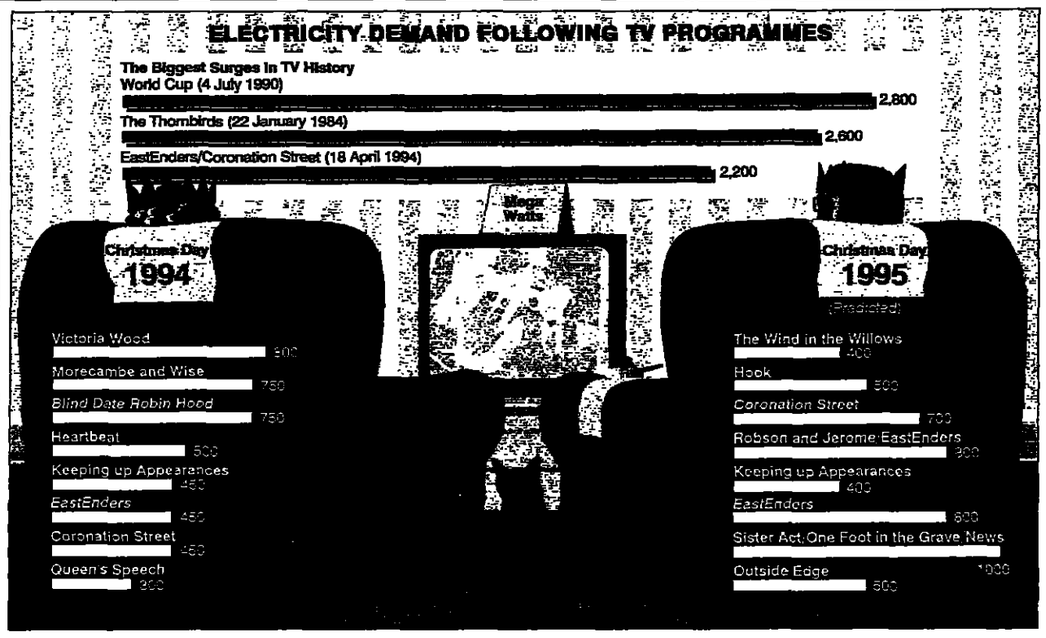
TROTTY VECK
(b) From *The Chimes: a goblin story of some bells that rang an old year out and a new year in.* As in *A Christmas Carol*, this shows the conversion of the central character by a vision — a poor old ticket-porter called Trotty Veck whofalls into a sad conviction that the poor must be born bad and have no right to exist.

JOHN PEERYBINGLE
(c) From *The Cricket on the Hearth.* A temporary shadow is cast over the humble but happy home of the carter, John Peerybingle, and his young wife, Dot, by the appearance in their midst of a mysterious stranger. *The cricket on the hearth's cheerful domestic influence prevails over the* gloomy suspicions that beset John.

REDLAW
(a) Protagonist of *The Haunted Man*, the last of Dickens's sentimental Christmas Books. Redlaw broods on his past injuries and griefs, and is offered by his phantom *alter ego* entire forgetfulness of them.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1 ... Ne4+ 2 Ke1 Re3! and the white queen is lost.

AKOM LTD IS NOW OFFERING READERS OF THE TIMES FREE DELIVERY OF THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW AT STANDARD RETAIL PRICE — OFFER APPLIES UK ONLY.
TIMES CROSSWORDS: — Books 6 and 10 to 13 £3.99 each. Books 14 to 19 £3.50 each. NEW! Omnibus (Christmas) edition - 120 Times crosswords £4.99. The Times Concise — Book 2 (240 puzzles) 4.99. Books 3 to 6 £3.50 each. Times Two NEW Book 3 £2.99. The Times Jumbo - Books 1 & 2 £4.99 each. SUNDAY TIMES CROSSWORDS: — Books 10 to 13 £3.50 each. The Sunday Times Concise — Books 1 to 3 £3.50 each. SPECIAL OFFER: Any five crossword books (above) £15.
Send cheques with order payable to Akom Ltd 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Delivery to 8 days. Tel. 0181-852 4575 (24hrs) No credit cards.



The power business that is British to a tea

The National Grid has to make some strange calculations, as Christine Buckley discovered

As *Sister Act* and *One Foot in the Grave* finished last night, several thousand gallons of water will have rushed down the side of a Welsh mountain, triggered by a button in Wokingham.

The surge of hydroelectricity, which takes just ten seconds to create power after the command from the National Grid's control centre, will have come on stream to provide for the jump in power demand expected after what the Grid predicted would be Christmas Day's most popular television programmes.

Switching on hydroelectricity is a quick and costly fix and is implemented only when demand moves sharply upwards for a brief period. Such demand spikes often occur immediately after a popular television programme or during a commercial break. These demand peaks, or "TV pick-ups", have nothing to do with the use of energy by televisions, as the supply to them is constant. The jumps happen when viewers get up from their armchairs to switch on the kettle or turn on a light in another room.

And if it was not for this peculiar habit of the British, the National Grid would have one fewer job to do.

Such behaviour is not the norm elsewhere. In France the household is more inclined to repair to the drinks cabinet at the end of a favourite programme or during a commercial break. Neither are TV pick-ups a concern to controllers of power transmission in the United States, although the increased channel surfing on that side of the Atlantic could account for fewer robotic shifts to the kitchen throughout the nation.

Shanti Majithia, head of demand forecasting at the National Grid, says: "This seems to be unique to Britain. I don't know of it occurring in another country. When we have visitors to control centre they are amazed that we make such calculations."

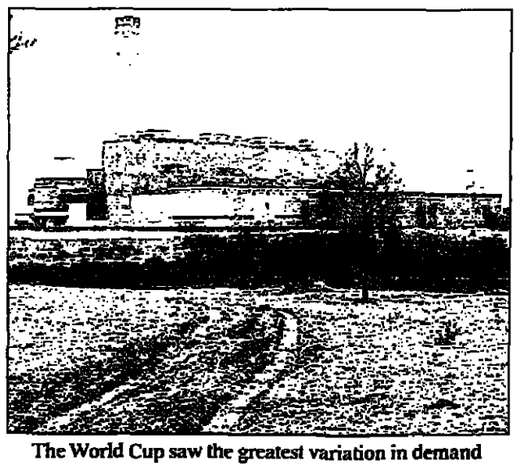
The demand forecasting centre could, perhaps, tell viewers more about their personal habits than they would know themselves. Such is the close watch it keeps on domestic movements and appliance use in order to smooth electricity provision.

The Grid's forecasters have regular meetings with television schedulers

It takes between fifteen seconds and two minutes for activity to follow the interval or the end of a television programme, although the time is generally on the shorter side during commercial breaks, as people tend to scurry to attend to their needs before the programme resumes.

Occasionally the power demand pattern will show the level to which the watching public has been stunned by what it has just seen.

After the World Cup semi-final between England and Germany in 1990 there was a gap of several minutes before the increased demand shot to its greatest ever variation with a jump of 2,800 megawatts — the equivalent to 840,000 kettles being switched on. Mr Majithia says: "The pick-up took much longer to start than is usual after the match. I think after the tension of the penalty shoot-out, people were in shock and they stayed slumped in their chairs for a while."



The World Cup saw the greatest variation in demand

In order not to be caught on the hop by popular programmes, the forecasters at the National Grid have regular meetings with schedulers from the BBC and ITV and are kept appraised of programming changes. This they add to a mass of other information such as weather forecasts on a daily basis and economic forecasts and social trends on a long-term level.

Television audiences still have the capacity to surprise, however. The popularity of *The Thornbirds* serial on BBC in 1984 had been unexpected by the Grid. More recently, the lack of popularity of the National Lottery live programme also went against expectations. "We were expecting a large jump but it hasn't really worked out that way. Generally people don't seem to be excited by the programme and the winning numbers are becoming more widely available."

The verdict in the trial of O.J. Simpson also threw up a surprise — and not only with the not-guilty verdict. The result, which came at a time when demand is usually very high for general use of appliances as people return home from work and begin using electricity, actually depressed the demand stream. With viewers glued to the screen as the verdict was announced, a TV dip was caused and the variation in demand meant that consumption fell by about 1,300 megawatts.

Sadly the traditional star of Christmas television, the Queen, can only dream of creating such an impact. As if to add to the Royal Family's troubles, the power forecasters this year removed her from the energy fluctuation alert list after a continuing fall in the number of kettles she triggers.



*Reductions taken from current list prices. Minimum list price £1,500.

هدية من الاهل

Eeyore, Frank and Gromit, the three kings

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

The scene is Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey, and Alan Bennett tactfully eavesdrops on the official guides leading the tourists — denominated by our *waspish Virgil* as "the tribes of Nike, Adidas and Reebok". "Here we have the very famous Charles Dickens," says the guide briskly, as though the commentary is conducted from the top of a *fast-moving bus and Dickens may* just be glimpsed. "Also Thomas Hardy, another great name."

Bennett lingers silently at a distance, tilting his head, pursing his lips. In the modern psychological parlance, his style of presentation is "passive aggressive" — and if a model is required for this, think only of Eeyore, whom Bennett impersonates so well. Oh don't mind me, heavens no. Nobody minds me. I'm nobody. In the *Lady Chapel he listens* uncomfortably to matins, and tries not to squirm at the readings from the Revised English Bible. "It ought not to matter to me," he confides in voice-over. "But it does a bit."

The Abbey (BBC2) was superb television for Christmas Day, and I will return to it later. But it was the casual reference to Hardy that struck me, for just half an hour before on BBC1 the shade of our greatest tragic ironist had obligingly scribbled up a storm for **EastEnders** (BBC1), when Frank returned to shatter Pat's equanimity on the happiest day of the year. *Forget The Mayor of Casterbridge* and *The Return of the Native*. The Return of Frank ("What's this? No kiss for the old *man* then?") will go down in the annals. Anyone at home thinking their own Christmas was rotten should be ashamed.

EastEnders is congratulating itself these days on its long-term planning, and rightly so. When Frank turned up, all that frantic wallpapering fell promptly into place. With walls of pink and blue, Frank would hardly know his own home! For Christmas Day, Pat wore nice clothes and tasteful earrings. She was a different person! She was not Frank's "babe"! Mike Reid wasted no time re-establishing himself and soon revealed that apology was not his strong point. "Look at me and tell me you don't love me," he said. *She* looked at him in disbelief. "I don't love you, Frank," she said.

Wow. *In my house,* we were quite wrung out. So we rewatched Nick Park's *Wallace and Gromit in A* **Close Shave** (BBC2) because it was simply the finest thing on over Christmas. *In a toss-up between* Gromit and Arthur Fowler falsely accused and languishing in a cell, Gromit is decidely the more entertaining, since he reads *Crime and Punishment* by Fido Dogstoyevsky. Whereas Arthur gripped his jigsaw box and stared at the walls, Gromit completed his own puzzle to read a message *inscribed on it*: "Friday 17th at 8pm. Be ready. A friend." He looked at the calendar: *Friday 17th! He grabbed his alarm* clock: 8pm! He looked at the window: a sheep with a chainsaw was attacking the bars. "Be-e-eh!" said the sheep. (It kept doing that.)

There is no need to rehearse the story of *A Close Shave*. Suffice to say that the lovely Wendolene (voiced by Anne Reid) was a glorious addition, and that Gromit is still the finest comic actor in this country, especially when dangling from a bungee rope outside a window with his arms folded and his ears perpendicular. His reaction shots now have a Zen-type understatement, as when Wallace announces cheerfully at the controls of an infernal wool-machine, "We've tested this on Gromit, haven't we lad?" and Gromit's eyes assume a brief faraway look, at thoughts that lie too deep for tears.

Compared with such brilliant *animation*, ITV's **Wind in the Willows** yesterday afternoon was beautiful but flat, with the voicing *actors given too little scope for* vocal performance. Michael Palin's Rat had no cadence, no oomph. In fact the only character that came fully to life was Rik Mayall's Toad, which is not so much a recommendation as an indictment. The river sparkled and shone, but its two-dimensional charms were hardly adequate to compensate for the disappointment elsewhere.

Back at *The Abbey*, director Jonathan Stedall worked brilliantly with Alan Bennett to produce a thoroughly absorbing hour of history illuminated by a surprising passion. Not many people still smart about Henry VIII dissolving the monasteries but Bennett is one of them. A Japanese tourist bought coffee in a cloister. "This is all very enterprising," *commented the aphoristic* Bennett with his very best maiden-aunt inflections, "though I'm not *sure* Jesus would have approved."

Bennett has become the new Betjeman without anyone noticing. But come to think of it, that's how he does everything. He speculated on the cliquishness of Poets' Corner — perhaps it's a practical arrangement for the Resurrection, so that on the Day of Judgment the writers needn't worry. "But will I know anybody?" In fact, they will be able to talk shop instantly. "Talking shop. That's the English idea of heaven anyway."

The Abbey continues tonight and tomorrow. As Christmases go (and I've seen a few), this has not been bad at all. Even P.G. Wodehouse's **Heavy Weather** on Christmas Eve (BBC1) turned out well, once you'd got used to Peter O'Toole's outrageous, unforgivable Emsworth and the initial shock of the Blandings butler (Roy Hudd) *referring blithely to* "the drawring room". In *Heavy Weather* a publishing magnate, played here by Richard Johnson, pursues an author to his country retreat and pleads for his manuscript. "I beg you on behalf of the English language!" cried Johnson. Golly, they don't make publishers like that any more.

BBC1

7.00am Tales of the Tooth Fairies (r) (s) (5077220) **7.05 The Greedysaurus Gang** (r) (s) (5076591) **7.10 The Snow Queen** (r) (s) (2305171) **7.35 Opus and Bill** (r) (7229171) **8.00 Fireman Sam** (r) (s) (5844930) **8.20 Playdays** (s) (6994539) **8.40 White Christmas** (3510775) **9.10 Peter Pan and the Pirates** *(r) (Ceefax) (s) (5845978)* **9.30 The Legend of Prince Valiant** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (1844442) **9.55 Eek the Cat** (r) (4978152) **10.20 Record Breakers** (r) (Ceefax) (2448607)

10.45 FILM:Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines (1965). Family viewing. Star-studded comedy, set in 1910 about a London to Paris air race. *Directed by Ken Annakin (Ceefax) (42605084)*

12.50pm News (Ceefax) and weather (12968084)

12.55 Regional News and weather (12967355)

1.00 Neighbours. *(Ceefax) (s) (89992978)*

1.20 The Two Ronnies. The 1987 Christmas show (Ceefax) (5802268)

2.10 FILM: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989, PG) with Harrison Ford and Sean Connery Satisfyingly brisk and lavishly-staged adventure. Directed by Steven Spielberg(Ceefax) (s) (323238)

4.10 Disney Time with Michaela Strachan (s) (5318797)

4.50 Final Score (1701688) **5.15 News** (3175713) **5.25 Regional News** (6246336) **5.30 Cartoon** *(938510)*

5.40 Neighbours. Lou and Philip receive a shocking suggestion from their greyhound's trainer (r) (Ceefax) (s) (661201)

6.05 FILM: Beethoven (1992, PG) with Charles Grodin. An all-American family adopt a St Bernard dog. As he begins to grow even larger, the father of the family grows hostile, but everyone rallies round when the dog is threatened by a dognapper. Directed by Brian Levant (Ceefax) (8752572)

7.30 EastEnders. *Kathy is organising a birthday party* but she has other things on her mind; and Pat tries to pick up the pieces but only succeeds in driving people away (Ceefax) (s) (249)



A timewarped love triangle (8.00pm)

8.00 CHOICE **Goodnight Sweetheart. Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea**. (Ceefax) (s) (908862)

8.50 The Thin Blue Line. Yuletide Spirit. Comedy *series set in a police station under the command of* the inept Insp Fowler. (Ceefax) (s) (429133)

9.20 FILM: Patriot Games (1992) with Harrison Ford. Implausible but convincingly played thriller. Directed by Phillip Noyce (Ceefax) (s) (73767978)

11.10 News (Ceefax) and weather (118404)

11.25 FILM: Clockwise (1986). Laboured comedy starring John Cleese as an obsessively punctual headmaster who sets out to give an important speech to a conference of headteachers. However, the day goes from bad to worse when he boards the wrong train and finds himself in an increasingly hysterical race against the clock. Directed by Christopher Morahan (Ceefax) (s) (187775)

1.00am Lisa Stansfield in Concert. Recorded at the Royal Albert Hall, London (s) (22553)

2.00 Weather (8547195)

BBC2

7.00 FILM: City Lights (b/w 1931) starring and directed by Charlie Chaplin. (1890220)

8.25 FILM: Mame *(1974) with Lucille Ball and Robert* Preston. Directed by Gene Saks (Ceefax) (62482317)

10.30 The Voyages of Charles Darwin Darwin's five-year voyage in *HMS Beagle* proved to be one of the most important scientific journeys ever. Darwin kept a journal on board (1/6) (r) (18571)

11.30 Celebrity Mantelpiece with the late Sir Michael Hordern (Ceefax) (4223355)

11.45 FILM: The Adventures of Quentin Durward (1955) with Robert Taylor and Kay Kendall. Adventure set in 15th-century Europe. Directed by Richard Thorpe (81584713)

1.20pm Anne Frank Remembered. A repeat of the Emmy award-winning film, narrated by Kenneth Branagh with music by Carl Davis (Ceefax) (s) (95353201)

3.20 FILM: My Fair Lady (1964) with Rex Harrison and Audrey Hepburn. Directed by George Cukor (Ceefax) (s)

6.05 CHOICE **The Gurkhas** presented by Ian Wooldridge (Ceefax) (s) (126510)

7.05 Pride and Prejudice: From Page to Screen. Andrew Davies and members of the production team describe how they adapted the novel. (r) (Ceefax) (s) (420317)

7.35 NEW **Sylvie Guillem**. The Swedish choreographer, Mats Ek, creates a duet *for Guillem and his brother, the dancer Niklas Ek.* (s) (137355)

8.00 The Abbey with Alan Bennett. Whom Would You Like to be Seen Dead With? Alan Bennett continues his observation of Westminster Abbey (2/3, final programme tomorrow) (Ceefax) (s) (910572)

8.55 Close Up. *Screenwriting teacher Robert McKee* choses a scene from Erich Von Stroheim's silent classic *Greed* (Ceefax) (s) (965591)

9.00 A to Z of ATV. An alphabetical compilation of classic clips (r) (256355)

9.20 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV Special Another chance to see the 1987 special edition. (r) (Ceefax) (958442)



Colin Firth plays a Parisian lawyer (10.00pm)

10.00 CHOICE **FILM: The Hour of the Pig** (1993). (879959)

11.55 FILM: Faust (1994) with Petr Cepek. Andrew Sachs provides all the voices in this English language *version. Directed by Jan Svankmajer (s) (796607)*

1.30 FILM: The Body Snatcher (b/w 1945) Directed by Robert Wise (Ceefax) (8635447)

2.3am5 Weatherview (5150973)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. VideoPlus+ can be used with most videos. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. For more details call VideoPlus on 0839 121204 (calls cost 39p/min cheap rate, 49p/min at other times) or write to VideoPlus+, Acornex Ltd, 5 Ivory House Plantation Wharf, London SW11 3TN. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd

CHOICE



Derek Jacobi fends off Amelia Curtis (ITV, 8.30pm)

Cadfael: The Virgin in the Ice
ITV, 8.30pm

If the death this year of Ellis Peters means no more Cadfael novels, television has only just started working its way through the canon. The casting of Derek Jacobi as Peters's medieval monk-cum-sleuth may not be to the taste of those who see him as a *rougher diamond but the stories have* been adapted with fidelity and skill. *The Virgin in the Ice* maintains the standard but what strikes above all is the quality of the photography. The action takes place in winter and the snowscapes, and the darkly-clad figures who inhabit them, often have a painter's eye for lighting and composition. The sombre images perfectly match *the story of the rape and murder of a young nun.* The detective work is unhurried but subtle and satisfying.

Screen Two: The Hour of the Pig
BBC2, 10.00pm

Writer-director Leslie Megahey provides the second medieval murder mystery of the evening but it is a long way from *Cadfeal. For one thing we are in* France, not England, but, more important, the murder suspect is a pig. If this sounds incredible, we are assured that in medieval France animals were subject to the same legal processes as human beings, including trial in a court of law. Colin (Mr Darcy) Firth plays the young lawyer who arrives from Paris to defend the animal, with the late Donald Pleasence appearing for the prosecution. By itself the episode would have made an engaging comedy but Magahey tends to overload the narrative by introducing a range of other themes, including superstition and witchcraft.

The Gurkhas
BBC2, 6.05pm

The seasonal relevance is obscure but the story of the Nepalese mercenaries who have fought for 180 years in the British Army is worth telling at any time. And if, despite his pithy phrases, Ian Wooldridge's commentary is almost entirely laudatory, only the sourest spirit would want it otherwise. Friendly, jolly *men away from the field of battle — and ferocious on it* — the Gurkhas contributed mightily to the Allied effort in two world wars and won a total of 26 Victoria Crosses. Joining the British Army continues to be an escape from one of the poorest *countries in the world*. As the film follows the latest recruits, just 153 chosen from 57,000 applicants, it reveals how even tying a shoelace can be a culture shock.

Goodnight Sweetheart
BBC1, 8.00pm

It is a fairly safe rule that Christmas specials are never as good as the episodes we see through the rest of the year and some may feel the timewarp comedy is too brittle already to risk stretching over 50 minutes instead of the usual 30. But the 13 million viewers who watched the last series will not be complaining. Nicholas Lyndhurst's Gary Sparrow, on whose *amiable dottiness much of the show hangs, is now* living simultaneously in late 1995 and late 1941. In one of the programme's best gags he wonders whether he should warn the Americans of the Japanese attack on *Pearl Harbor. Meanwhile,* he continues to juggle the attentions of his forthright wife (Michelle Holmes) and Forties mistress (Dervla Kirwan). **Peter Waymark**

CARLTON

6.00am GMTV (8147404)

9.25 Mole's Christmas (r) (s) (8225404)

9.55 Talespin (s) (4963220)

10.20 The Forgotten Toys. Animated short film (1286305)

10.50 FILM: The Snow Queen. A feature-length animated version of the classic fairy tale featuring the voices of Helen Mirren, David Jason, Hugh Laurie, Julia McKenzie, Rik Mayall and Imelda *Staunton (s) (7224930)*

12.20pm ITN News and weather (Teletext) (8185317)

12.30 Emmerdale (r) (Teletext) (76046)

1.00 Take That at Earl's Court *(Part 2)*. The band's summer show (Teletext) (s) (1960862)

2.05 FILM: Return of the Pink Panther (1975). Family viewing, with Peter Sellers, Christopher Plummer and Catherine Schell. Directed by Blake Edwards (42662775)

4.10 FILM: Her Alibi (1989) starring Tom Selleck, *Paulina Porizkova and William Daniels.* A thriller writer visits a courtroom and becomes so besotted with a woman accused of murder he invents an alibi for her. But after a series of near-fatal accidents his confidence in her innocence is sorely tested. Directed by Bruce Beresford (59402030)

5.50 ITN News and weather (849133)

6.00 GoldenEye: The Secret Files. How was 007 restored to his position as the world's favourite secret agent for audiences in the 1990s? (84065)

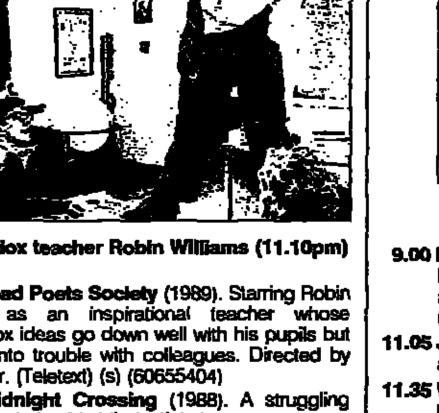
7.00 Christmas in Emmerdale. *Terry confronts his* Christmas past and a practical joke turns into a nightmare for Butch and Sam. (Teletext) (7171)

8.00 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of People. (Teletext) (s) (1046)

8.30 CHOICE **Cadfael: The Virgin in the Ice**. Another monastic medieval mystery as Brother Cadfael investigates the rape, murder and encasement in ice of a nun. (Teletext) (31336)

10.00 The Beatles Anthology. (5/6) The Fab Four *commence their spiritual journey with the Maharishi* and cope with the untimely death of Brian Epstein. (Teletext) (6442)

11.00 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (475201)



Unorthodox teacher Robin Williams (11.10pm)

11.10 FILM: Dead Poets Society (1989). Starring Robin Williams as an inspirational teacher whose unorthodox ideas go down well with his pupils but get him into trouble with colleagues. Directed by Peter Weir. (Teletext) (s) (60655404)

1.35 FILM: Midnight Crossing (1988). A struggling yachtsman helps his blind wife's boss to recover a hoard of money hidden off Cuba. Directed by *Roger Holzberg (s) (622973)*

3.20 FILM: Tricks of the Trade (1988). The widow of a stockbroker killed on one of his regular visits to a prostitute joins forces with the hooker to investigate his murder. Starring Cindy Williams, Markie Post and Scott Paulin. Directed by Jack Bender (535669)

5.00 It's Xmas, It's Number One. Following the *fortunes of the contenders for the position of top of the charts at Christmas. (r) (s) (1707319)*

5.55 ITN Morning News (4696440). *Ends at* **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.40am Ulysses 31 (r) (1679510) **7.05 The Adventures Of T-Rex** (r) (2373572) **7.30 Little Dracula** (r) *(33978)*

8.00 The Big Breakfast (15084)

10.00 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line (s) (1181751)

10.25 Babylon 5. Science-fiction adventure series (r). (Teletext) (s) (3038249)

11.20 California Dreams. Teen drama (r) (4876571)

11.45 Biker Mice From Mars (s) (2101220) **12.10pm The Super Mario Brothers** (3833794) **12.20 Dennis** (8183959)

12.30 Channel 4 Racing From Kempton. Live coverage of the **12.45, 1.15, 1.45, 2.20 (King George VI Tripleprint Chase)** and **2.50** races (32697317)

3.15 Dido and Aeneas. *The choreographer Mark Morris* stars in the dual roles of Dido and the Sorceress in this radical new approach to Purcell's opera, and Guillermo Resto is Aeneas. Followed by **The X Mas Files: The Bee.** Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Flight of the Bumble Bee* (794797)

4.15 The World of Jim Henson. A tribute to the late *creator of Sesame Street and The Muppets* (Teletext) (s) (28357341)

5.55 Channel 4 News summary and weather (855794)

6.00 Absolutely Xmas Animals. Dani Behr visits Britain's largest dog shelter, in Liverpool, and discovers that, for pets, Christmas is less than a festive occasion. (Teletext) (s) (582152)

6.45 FILM: No Worries (1993) starring Amy Terelinck. An acclaimed study of the human face of Australia's rural crisis told from the point of view of an 11-year-old girl. Matilda Bell is a lively country girl whose family is forced to give up their farm because of the South Australian drought of the early 1980s and the subsequent recession. As other farmers succumb *to the financial pressures of the bank and auction off* their properties, Matilda's parents remain optimistic but when wood prices tumble they realise that they too have run out of money and hope. Directed by David Effick (Teletext) (s) (73323539)

8.30 Brookside (Teletext) (s) (1423)



David Bradley and his kestrel (9.00pm)

9.00 FILM: Kes (1969) starring David Bradley as a young boy who escapes his unhappy home life by taming and training a kestrel. Directed by Ken Loach (Teletext) (45589713)

11.05 Just For Laughs. Stand-up humour from the annual comedy festival in Montreal (889355)

11.35 Whose Line Is It Anyway? A compilation of highlights from the last series (487171)

12.10am American Football. Action from the NFL *(7810718)*

1.25 FILM: Street With No Name (1948, b/w) starring Mark Stevens and Richard Widmark. A thriller about an FBI agent who infiltrates a murderous gang of thieves. Directed by William Keighley. (226851)

3.05 Rawhide: Incident of the Buffalo Soldier (b/w). Vintage western adventures (r) (7174263)

4.00 The World of Hammer. Oliver Reed narrates this *tribute to Hammer science-fiction films (r) (55379)* Ends at **4.30**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 1.35am Film: The Sign of Four (622973) **3.20** The Chart Show *(7197114)* **4.15** *On the Live Side (78176)* **4.45** Film: Clancy Street Boys (3189089)

HTV WEST
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 The Munsters Today (76046)

CENTRAL
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Emmerdale (76046) **1.35am** Film: Midnight Crossing: A struggling yachtsman helps his blind wife's boss to recover a hoard of money hidden off Cuba. She thinks they are on an anniversary cruise. Violence and betrayal await the fated partnership. Directed by Roger Holzberg (622973) **3.20** Film: Tricks of the Trade (535669) **5.00** It's Xmas, *It's Number One (1707319)*

HTV WEST
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 The Munsters Today (76046)

MERIDIAN
As London except: 1.35am Film: The Sign of Four (622973) **3.20** The Chart Show (7197114) **4.15** On the Live Side (78176) **4.45** Film: Clancy Street Boys (3189089)

TYNE TEES
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Emmerdale (76046) **1.35am** Film: *Midnight* Crossing (1988) starring Faye Dunaway and Daniel J Travanti. A struggling yachtsman helps his blind wife's boss to recover a hoard of money hidden off Cuba. *She thinks they* are on an anniversary cruise. Violence and betrayal await the fated partnership. Directed by Roger Holzberg (622973) **3.20** Film: Tricks of the Trade (535669) **5.00** *It's Xmas, It's Number One* (1707319)

S4C
Starts: 7.05 The Adventures Of T- Rex (2373572) **7.30** *Little* Dracula (33978) **8.00** The Big Breakfast (15084) **10.00** The Morning Line *(1181751)* **10.25** *Babylon 5*: Infection (3038249) **11.20** California Dreams (4876571) **11.45** The Pink Panther Show (4213978) **12.00pm** Slot Meithrin ABC (58152) **12.30** *Channel 4 Racing From Kempton* (32697317) **3.15** Film: Miracle On 34th Street (99067997) **5.00** Sinderela (2539) **6.00** Newyddion 6/ News (584794) **6.10** 5 Pump Pinpin Y Goeden Nadolig (138539) **6.40** 5 Pump Fiell (823355) **7.00** Cefn Gwlad: (876423) **7.45** Pavarotti Yn Llangollen (990684) **8.45** Newyddion/news (779775) **9.00** Y Maplw (94489881) **10.50** Brookside (222065) **11.20** Absolutely Xmas *Animals* (339930) **12.05am** American Football (7813805)

RTE 1
Starts: 8.00am FILM: The Laurel and Hardy Season. Pardon Us (25277959) **9.10** FILM: The Shirley Temple Season: Little Miss Marker (8428751) **9.20** Widget (7054336) **9.40** The Late Late Show (3007930) **10.30** FILM: The Prince and the Pauper (37491423) **11.35** Santa Barbara (80094859) **12.00** News Summary (74674862) **12.02pm** Twelve to One (5454336) **12.40** Bewitched (75169423) **1.00** The One O'Clock News *And Weatherline (33657572)* **1.05** *Cinnlinte* Nuachta (33889171) **1.10** News Headlines and Weatherline (33686084) **1.15** The Big Race (33676607) **1.25** Animals of the *Mediterranean (73523139)* **1.30** Santa and the Magician (9037201) **2.00** We'll Meet Again (5310862) **3.00** Live at Three (5660220) **3.55** FILM: The Never Ending Story II (96639404) **4.00** News Summary (28763317) **4.05** Sons and Daughters (96648152) **4.30** Agatha Christie's Poirot (4845881) **5.30** The Boy Who Dreamed Christmas (8733930) **6.30** A Country Practice (8733930) **6.00** *The Angelus (8763171)* **6.01** Six-One and Weatherline (8763171) **6.02** News for the Deaf (8763171) **6.15** Time Out (7212210) **6.20** Talkabout Christmas *(6767125)* **6.27** *The Christmas Story* (1614713) **6.30** Ireland's Wild Countryside (3218442) **6.50** Fair City (8524065) **7.00** Talkabout (9228510) **7.20** FILM: A League of *Their Own* (1737797) **7.30** Fair City (8750607) **8.00** Head to Toe (7725152) **8.30** Check Up (7711959) **9.00** The Nine O'Clock News and Weatherline (8598510) **9.30** Prime *Time* (289940) **9.50** News and Weatherline (4048539) **10.10** Hall's Pictorial Life (7353249) **11.10** FILM: Reversal of Fortune (3334684) **12.10am** Late News (9154008) **12.15** A Prayer At Bedtime (8057263) **12.15** Late News (9153379) **12.20** A Prayer at Bedtime (9143992) **12.25 Close**

NETWORK 2
Starts: 8.30am Bosco (85796220) **9.00** Den TV (61154607) **9.03** Bananas in Pyjamas (70538862) **9.10** Tir na (66672249) **9.30** Rupert (89411846) **10.00** The New Adventures of Mother Goose (69513336) **11.00** *O* Christmas Tree (14575591) **11.30** 2TV (15337268) **1.30** FILM: National Velvet (68165930) **3.45** Bank of Ireland / RTE Proms 1995 (20936862) **5.40** *Out of Ireland* (48639897) **7.43** Cinnlinte Nuachta (30640046) **7.45** The Wren's Day (89681125) **8.45** Timpean and Dreolin (25315152) **9.15** *FILM: Malcolm X (83850779)* **12.50** Close

SATELLITE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE
7.00am The DJ Kat Show (79978) **8.00** *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* (82133) **8.30** Press Your Luck (81404) **9.00** Court TV (75864) **9.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (74404) **10.30** Concentration (75828) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (60046) **12.00** Jeopardy (85220) **12.30pm** Murphy Brown (34084) **1.00** The Waltons (39539) **2.00** Geraldo (37220) **3.00** Court TV (1065) **3.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (8142249) **4.20** Mighty *Morphin Power Rangers* (3298794) **4.45** Kipper Tripper (5374713) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (2317) **6.00** The Simpsons (3671) **6.30** Jeopardy (4881) **7.00** LAPD (3046) **7.30** M*A*S*H (3715) **8.00** The Bible. Jacob (47572) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (96607) **11.00** Law and Order (81539) **12.00** Late Show with David Letterman (8744447) **12.45am** The Untouchables (6199398) **1.30** *The Edge* (38640) **2.00-6.00** Hit Mix Long Play (7694089)

SKY NEWS
News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (391607) **8.30** Sports Action (89046) **9.00** Sunrise (75846) **9.30** Claudia Schiffer (72046) **10.30** ABC Nightline (92510) **11.00** World News and Business (27220) **11.30** Year in Review — Law and Order (49249) **1.30pm** CBS News (68355) **2.30** CBS News (26930) **3.30** Fashion TV (9859) **4.00** *World News and Business* (1794) **4.30** Year in Review — *The Middle East* (7978) **5.00** Live at Five (87997) **6.30** Year in Review — Sport (41249) **7.30** Year in Review — Law *and Order* (22292) **8.30** Target (2171) **9.00** World News and Business (47084) **9.30** Year in Review — The Middle East (67133) **11.30** CBS News (27152) **12.30am** ABC News (60737) **1.30** Claudia Schiffer (12337) **2.30** Worldwide Report (76244) **3.30** Fashion TV (98089) **4.30** CBS News (27331) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (22805)

SKY MOVIES
6.00am Showcase (35539) **8.00 Beethoven's 2nd (1993)** (26572) **10.00 One *Million Years BC (1966)* (39012) 12.00 Robin Hood: Men in Tights (1993)** (41423) **2.00pm 3 Ninjas (1992)** (57959) **4.00 Free Willy (1993)** (7249) **6.00 Beethoven's 2nd (1993)** (60423) **8.00 Robin Hood: Men in Tights (1993)** (72268) **10.00 The Favor (1994)** (762220) **11.40 SIS Extreme Justice (1993)** (352152) **1.20am Invisible: The Chronicles of Benjamin Knight (19930)** *(4673485)* ***2.40 Posse (1993)*** *(197263)* **4.30-6.00 3 Ninjas (1992)** (55114)

SKY MOVIES GOLD
4.00pm Buona Sera, Mrs Campbell (1968) (2591) **6.00 42nd Street (1933)** (40607) **8.00 Cocoon (1985)** (45152) **10.00 Rain Man (1988)** (92544713) **12.20am Less Than Zero (1987)** (508553) **2.00-3.40 Horror of Frankenstein (1970)** (758263)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am Courage of Lassie (1946) (86881) ***8.00 Yabba-Dabba Doo Celebration*** (59442) **10.00 Where the Red Fern Grows — Part 2 (1991)** (36442) **12.00 Wind (1992)** (49065) **2.00pm My Favourite Wife (1940)** (48201) **4.00 Spider-Man: The Captive Tower (1978)** (43268) **5.00 The Remains of the Day (1993)** (761317) **7.30 Special Feature: Seven** (3775) **8.00 Demolition Man (1993)** (63510) **10.00 The Last Seduction (1994)** (781220) **11.50 Mo' Money (1992)** (284591) **1.20am Victim of Rage (1994)** (832398) **2.55 Incident in a Small Town (1993)** (561824) **4.30-6.00** ***Dunderklumpen (1973)*** *(53756)*

THE DISNEY CHANNEL
Sky Movies Gold from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am *Umbrella Tree (45080133)* **6.30** Muppet Babies (33092572) **7.00** Winnie the Pooh (36855930) **7.30** Ducktales (36874065) **8.00** Chip 'n' Dale (29237862) **8.30** Wonderland (29238133) **9.00** *Fraggle Rock* (29250713) **9.30** Pooh Corner (63075317) **10.00** Dumbo's Circus (33016152) **10.30** Quack Attack (29256997) **11.00** Great Cat Family (36883713) **12.00** Boy Meets World (29247249) **12.30pm** Thunder Alley (63079133) **1.00** Flipper (63074688) **2.00** Wonderland (70803423) **2.30** Umbrella Tree (62891881) **3.00** Fraggle Rock (70882930) **3.30** Winnie the Pooh (62803626) **4.00** Quack Attack (62882133) **4.30** Ducktales (62888317) **5.00** Chip 'n' Dale (70894775) **5.30** Danger Bay (62802997) **6.00** Tarzan (62892510) **6.30** Dinosaurs (62883862) **7.00** The Best of Walt Disney (68965997) **8.00-10.00** FILM: The Mighty Ducks (68945133)

EUROSPORT
7.30am Triathlon (77978) **8.30** Rugby (96171) **10.00** Speedworld (29046) **11.30** Offroad (90794) **12.30pm** Football (52171) **2.30** Ice Hockey (17959) **4.30** Formula One (39442) **5.30** Boxing(95572) **6.30** News **7.00** Motors (25997) **9.00** Football (17355) **11.00** Snooker (14881) **12.00-12.30am** News (87756)

SKY SPORTS
7.00am Snowboard (10055) **7.30** Racing (99572) **8.00** Cricket: England v South Africa (4427152) **4.00** Football (87626) **5.00** The Big League: Wigan v St Helens (307133) **7.30** Football: Blackburn v Manchester City (24283881) **10.15** Sports Centre (534572) **10.45** Cricket Highlights (17127084) **12.30am** Football (78331) **2.30-3.00** Sports Centre (56783)



Giancarlo Giannini stars in *The Bible: Jacob* (Sky One, 8.00pm)

SKY SPORTS GOLD
10.00pm World Cup Hall of Fame: Dino Zoff (2656607) **10.30** Golden Gloves (1127862) **11.30-1.00am** Superstars (7739978)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL
4.00am Living Word **5.00** Kenneth Copeland **5.30** Kidz TV **5.45** Chronicles of Revival **6.15** Colin Dye **6.45-7.00** Music Television

SKY SOAP
7.00am Guiding Light (4595249) **7.55** As the World Turns (7821713) **8.50** Peyton Place (4539959) **9.20** *Days of Our Lives* (4683959) **10.10** Another World

SKY TRAVEL
11.00am Globetrotter (1942591) **11.30** Trailside (1943220) **12.00** On Top of the World (2655978) **12.30pm** Frugal Gourmet (2928085) **1.00** Around the World (4274884) **1.30** Travel Guide (2927336) **2.00** Ski Special (9811442) **3.00** Getaway (4930862) **3.30-4.00** Boomerang (2822171)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL
4.00pm Our Century (1966171) **5.00** Godfathers v the Law (4954442) **6.00-7.00** Biography: Santa Claus (2936084)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL
7.00-10.00pm Thriller Marathon (5081133) **1.00-4.00am** Thriller Marathon (2210114)

TLC
9.00am-12.30pm The Joy of Painting (8408930) **12.30-4.00** The Secret Life of Machines (8430539)

UK GOLD
7.00am Angels (1211626) **7.30** Neighbours (1290133) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (9771978) **8.30** EastEnders (9770249) **9.00** The Bill (9754201) **9.30** The Sullivans (1608510) **10.00** A Dorothy L Sayers Mystery (1296317) **11.00** Dallas (1209881) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (9774065) **12.30pm** Neighbours (1614626) **1.00** EastEnders (1210997) **1.30** The Bill (1613997) **2.00** The Sullivans (59570039) **2.25** Are You Being Served? (3794881) **3.00** Angels (7607539) **3.30** Eldorado (8206201) **4.00** The Paul Daniels Magic Show (95531930) **5.05** Larry Grayson's Generation Game (41858220) **6.15** Kenny's Comic Cuts (6097336) **6.25** EastEnders (2640084) **7.00** Eldorado (7682220) **7.30** The Liver Birds (8222249) **8.00** George and Mildred (2963959) **8.25** Butterflies (1414713) **9.00** The Sweeney (5049084) **10.00** The Bill (6897997) **10.35** Classic Sport (1611336) **11.35** Carrott Confidential (2175220) **12.15am** Dr Who (8707737) **12.45** FILM: Cattle Queen of Montana (2073282) **2.15** Shopping at Night

TCC
6.00am Christopher Crocodile (93959) **6.30** Tiny and Crew (1719152) **6.45** Bump (1447607) **7.00** Destination Santa (43978) **7.30** Inspector Gadget (55713) **8.00** Earthworm Jim (46930) **8.30** Eek the Cat (45201) **9.00** Garfield (69881) **9.30** The Bears Who Saved Christmas (94065) **10.00** FILM: My Little Pony (89442) **11.30** The Babysitters' Club (24171) **12.00** Art Attack (7226305) **12.15pm** Dish of the Day (4975794) **12.30** No Naked Flames (96861) **1.00** *California* (93336) **2.00** Best of Blast '95 (5442) **2.30** Ready or Not (6084) **3.00** Sweet Valley (1249) **3.30** Hang Time (8201) **4.00** California (7336) **4.30-5.00** *Madison* (6220)

NICKELODEON
6.00am Blue, Child of the Earth (86881) **6.30** Count Duckula (98355) **7.00** Batfink (1204976) **7.05** Hero Turtles (3235317) **7.45** Rugrats (837046) **8.15** Doug (922688) **8.45** Rocko (5040997) **9.00** Rude Dog and the Dweebs (38997) **9.30** Clarissa (56881) **10.00** Rugrats (89607) **10.30** Pete and Pete (27881) **11.00** Fish and Chips (61688) **11.30** Doug (62317) **12.00** Rocko (18133) **12.30pm** Real Monsters (67997) **1.00** Ship to Shore (17978) **1.30** Dungeons and Dragons (88133) **2.30** Galaxy High School (3930) **3.00** Christmas Every Day (5423) **3.30** The Littlest Pet Shop (5775) **4.00** Fish and Chips (7510) **4.30** Rugrats (3794) **5.00** Clarissa (7268) **5.30** Christmas Every Day (4046) **6.00** Doug (1959) **6.30** Are You Afraid? (5539) **7.00** Fish and Chips (7404) **7.30-8.00** Nancy Drew (4423)

DISCOVERY
4.00pm Driving (8223978) **4.30** Voyager (8212862) **5.00** The Dinosaurs! (7689133) **6.00** Invention (8233355) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (1151133) **7.30** Human/Nature (8213591) **8.00-12.00** The Unknown (6851336)

BRAVO
12.00 FILM: The Last Waltz (6979442) **2.00pm** Danger Man (6967607) **3.00** Scotland Yard (7692607) **3.30** Man from Interpol (8231997) **4.00** FILM: Run Silent, Run Deep (7696423) **6.00** Scotland Yard (8220881) **6.30** Avengers (1155959) **7.30** The Protectors (8217317) **8.00** Space 1999 (5021688) **9.00-12.00** FILM: Irma La Douce (3811238)

UK LIVING
6.00am Agony Hour (7050539) **7.00** Living (6831881) **9.00** Mr Smith's Indoor Garden (2733336) **9.30** Kate and Allie (5836688) **10.00** Hearts of Gold (6242065) **10.25** Bride of the Day (9885201) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (3604404) **11.55** Food and Drink (6757336) **12.30pm** Brookside (5299626) **1.05** Kilroy (1725133) **2.00** FILM: The Heart of Christmas (8653133) **2.30** Opryland Christmas (7037688) **4.00** Infatuation UK (8199830) **4.30** Crosswits (7243794) **5.05** The Joker's Wild (59057862) **5.30** The Young and the Restless (9292249) **6.30** Brookside (6501539) **7.05** Jerry Springer (7862881) **8.00** *The Brides of Christ* (4009201) **9.00** FILM: Original Sin (27405591) **11.00-12.00** Love Life (6828317)

FAMILY CHANNEL
5.00pm FILM: The Little Match Girl (58554626) **6.50** FILM: Home for Christmas (42006152) **8.45** FILM: The White Tower (45178355) **10.35** *FILM: Partners in Love* (88694220) **12.20am** FILM: Home for Christmas (255824) **2.15-4.05** FILM: The White Tower (419737)

MTV
6.30am The Grind (27442) **7.00** 3 from 1 (8009881) **7.15** Awake (4649442) **8.00** Videos (571881) **10.30** Rockumentary (67423) **11.00** Soul (33591) **12.00** Greatest Hits (86046) **1.00pm** Music Non-Stop (98518341) **2.45** 3 from 1 (3319355) **3.00** Cinematic (8436355) **3.15** Hanging Out (7868881) **4.15** News **4.15** Hanging Out (6313978) **5.00** The Worst of Most Wanted (8152) **5.30** Hanging Out (9930) **5.30** Dial MTV (85797) **6.30** Sports (1733) **7.00** Greatest Hits (30220) **8.00** Video (76794) **9.30** Beavis and Butthead (87775) **10.00** News (529268) **10.15** Cinematic (517423) **10.30** Real World London (68152) **11.00** Beavis and Butthead Christmas Special (54084) **12.00** The End? (21114) **12.30am** Videos (9489008)

VH-1
7.00am Power Breakfast (5624305) **9.00** Christmas Café (1607997) **12.00** VH-100 for You (2909930) **1.00pm** The Vinyl Years (2925976) **2.00** Luther Vandross (9880572) **3.00** Into the Christmas Music (2566238) **6.00** VH-1-2-3: *Queen* (2938442) **7.00** VH-100 for You (6136317) **8.00** Egos and Icons: David Bowie (6145065) **9.00** Jimmy Nail (6125201) **10.00** The Vinyl Years (6135688) **11.00** *The Xmas Nightfly (8309572)* **1.00am** Ten of the Best (1195263) **2.00** Dawn Patrol

CMT EUROPE
Country music from **6am to 7pm**

ZEE TV
7.00am Asian Morning (11524171) **8.30** Cricket World Cup (46220242) **9.00** Bollywood Stars Concert (76544336) **12.00** Old is Gold (62927201) **1.00pm** Hindi FILM (46499539) **3.00** Making of Hum Aap Ki Hai Koun (93948355) **5.00** Zee Zone (59162688) **5.30** Rang Tarang (92047626) **6.30** Zee and U (21165317) **7.00** Urdu Serial: Tanhayan (89888930) **8.00** News **8.30** Antakshari (59170607) **9.00-12.00** Boxing Day FILM (25382715)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT
Cartoons from 6am to 8pm; TNT films.
7.00pm The Adventures of Quentin Durward (1955) (36973336) **9.00 Pennies from Heaven (1982)** (68942046) **11.00 *Now, Voyager (1942)* *(85482065)* *1.05am* Stock Car (1955)** (66013485) **2.20 Marilyn (1953)** (95453689) **3.40-5.00 Shadows of a Man (1954)** (29090176)

CNN/QVC
CNN provides 24-hour news and QVC is the home shopping channel.

BUSINESS

TUESDAY DECEMBER 26 1995

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Whitbread to make £1bn agreed offer for Forte restaurants

BY MELVYN MARCKUS
CITY EDITOR

WHITBREAD, the brewing and leisure combine, is poised to enter the £3.3 billion Granada/Forte takeover fray with a £1 billion offer for Forte's restaurant operations.

Sir Rocco Forte, chairman of Forte, and Peter Jarvis, chief executive of Whitbread, are understood to have reached agreement in principle on Friday, although advisers have been finalising details over the Christmas holiday. Official confirmation of the proposed deal is expected before trading resumes on the Stock Exchange tomorrow morning. Whitbread's offer — expected to emerge at slightly above £1 billion — is tantamount to a white knight play, with Forte dramatically wresting the initiative from Granada.

Under Takeover Panel rules, Forte has until January 2 to furnish shareholders with new financial information. A cash inflow of this magnitude would significantly affect Forte's debt level of £1.3 billion and leave the company with various options to use in its defence strategy. High on the list must be the possibility of a special dividend payment in addition to the higher distribution already forecast. A share buy-back may also be under consideration. With Forte's proposed demerger overtaken by events, shareholders may be offered shares in the Savoy, in which Forte holds 68 per cent of the equity but only 42 per cent of the votes. The Whitbread development could signal an offer from a third party for Forte's Savoy stake.

Forte and Whitbread, which is being advised on the negotiations by Barings, are understood to have sounded out the Takeover Panel well before Friday's agreement. The sale will be subject to shareholder approval but will materialise only if Forte's shareholders reject Granada's offer.

Whitbread's £1 billion expansion play embraces Forte's 335 Little Chef outlets, 84 Happy Eater roadside restaurants and 26 Welcome Break motorway service stations. The deal also includes Forte's 112 Travelodge budget hotels, which would be absorbed into Whitbread's Travel Inn operation. Forte's chain of 12 Wheelers restaurants are also in the transaction along with 52 Coté France roadside establishments.

Under Mr Jarvis's direction Whitbread has continued to diversify out of brewing and the Forte acquisition would thrust the company to the forefront of the popular restaurant market. Existing outlets include Brewers Fayre, Beefeater, TGI Fridays and Pizza Hut, the latter operated under franchise from Pepsi Cola. Earlier this year Whitbread acquired the David Lloyd tennis centre chain and the UK franchise to operate Marriott Hotels. Indications are that Whitbread, with low gearing of just 22 per cent, will not require a rights issue to fund the acquisition, although an eventual cash raising exercise cannot be ruled out.

Granada's bid values Forte at 322p — 4p below Friday's closing price of 326p. The consensus among City analysts even before news of the Forte/Whitbread deal broke was that Granada would be forced to raise its terms — seen as little more than a sighting shot.

Eurotunnel to press for cut-price debt

BY MELVYN MARCKUS, CITY EDITOR

SIR Alastair Morton, co-chairman of Eurotunnel, will make a statement to shareholders concerning the company's crucial negotiations with its bankers next month.

According to Sir Alastair, Eurotunnel hopes to be in a position to outline the "shape" of a solution. He emphasised, however, that even if agreement in principle is reached with the banks in the short term, detailed negotiations will extend well into 1996.

Eurotunnel effectively forced the issue of a financial restructuring last September when the company announced an 18-month freeze on interest payments — amounting to £2 million a day — on £8 billion worth of debt owed to a syndicate of 225 banks.

Inquiries by *The Times* indicate that Eurotunnel will press for a reduction in the company's gross overall interest rate of around 9½ per cent to nearer 7 per cent. Eurotunnel is expected to argue that an interest rate of 7 per cent or less is in keeping with the Anglo-French company's utility status, enshrined in its 57-year concession to operate the cross-Channel project. At the same time, Eurotunnel's directors will claim that a 9½ per cent coupon is geared to project finance. The negotiations are being conducted with representatives of four agent banks, the NatWest, Midland, Banque Nationale de Paris and Credit Lyonnais.

Rumours persist that the Japanese members of the banking syndicate pose a potential threat to any agreement. Many of the 35 Japanese banks involved in the syndicate are reputed to be reluctant to make further provisions in view of their own over-stretched balance sheets. It is understood that the 35 banks account for about 20 per cent of Eurotunnel's debt, suggesting a maximum exposure of around £160 million. Sources close to the negotiations do not deny a problem but argue that £160 million is small in relation to Japan's banking crisis.

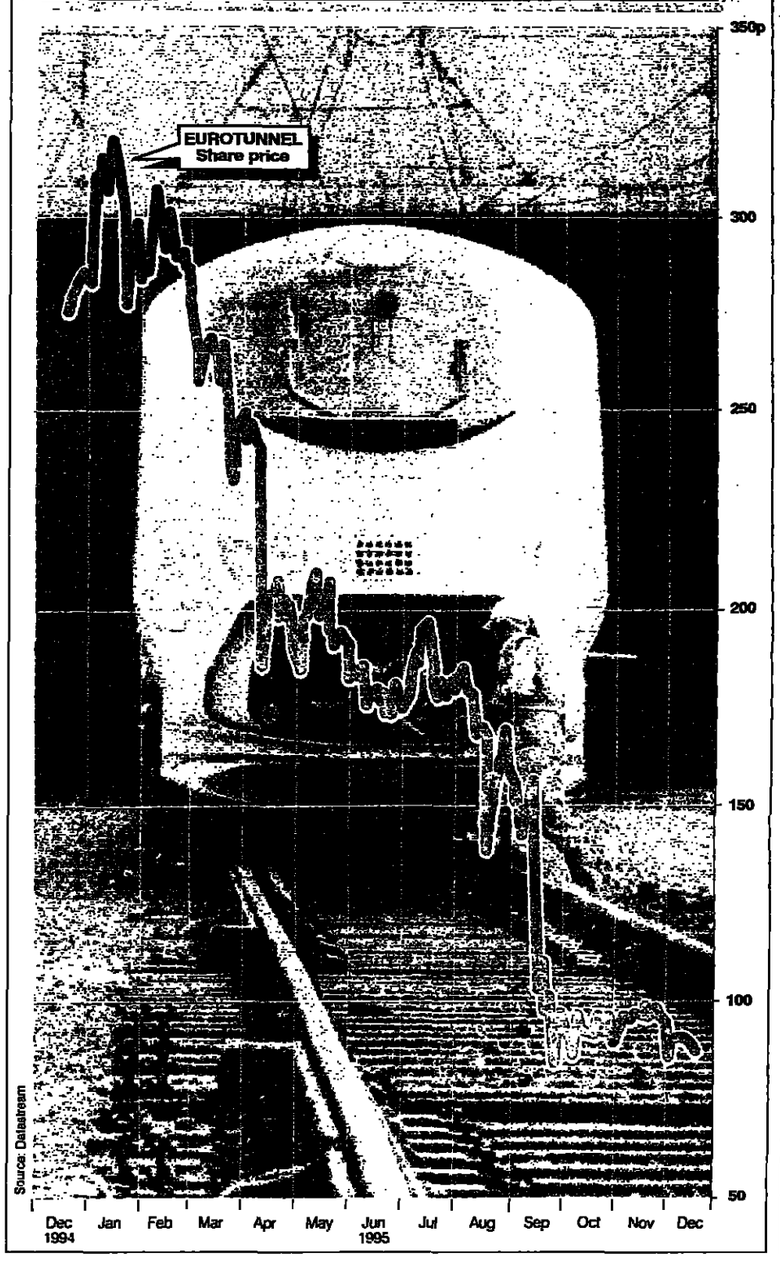
Eurotunnel, which suffered a £465 million loss during the first half, recently revealed a rise in revenues from £61.5 million in the second quarter to £81.3 million for the third quarter of 1995. This took nine-month revenues to £185.8 million, in line with the forecast that turnover for the year will amount to £275 million.

This is a far cry from the £525 million predicted in Eurotunnel's 1994 rights issue prospectus but the message from the company is that the year has ended on a high note. Eurotunnel achieved a new daily record when it transported more than 7,000 cars during the run-up to Christmas.

News, last October, of the International Chamber of Commerce's dismissal of Eurotunnel's £2.5 billion claim against British Rail and SNCF, the French railway, revived fears that Eurotunnel may yet be forced into administration should a solution not prove forthcoming early next year. The banks have little to gain from such action, which is complicated by the fact that UK and French insolvency laws are not compatible.

Interest centres around a French practice known as debt/creditor conciliation or "reglement amiable". This is based on a company's appointment of an arbitrator — subject to court consent — whose responsibility is to "invite creditors to conclude an agreement with the debtor". There are suggestions that Eurotunnel has perused this course of action, but only in the context of a last resort.

EUROTUNNEL: SHARES COMING OFF THE RAILS



Queen drops in the power stakes

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE QUEEN was yesterday downgraded by the National Grid when, for the first time, power forecasters did not prepare to provide extra electricity after the Christmas message.

Shanti Majithia, head of demand forecasting at the electricity transmission company, said: "Demand has been dropping over the past couple of years and there was very little last year so this year we didn't think the power surge afterwards would be enough to form a pick-up."

TV pick-ups are sudden variations of power demand that are generated when people get up at the end of programmes or during commercial breaks to switch on kettles or lights.

They are estimated along with a range of other information in order to match power supply with demand.

The decision not to provide for extra power for the Queen was made several weeks ago after the Grid's control centre scrutinised the TV programming for Christmas and compared previous demand peaks. While TV programming is closely monitored throughout the year by the Grid, it has an increased bearing at Christmas as electricity usage in other areas such as industry is at a virtual standstill.

Last year, the Queen's seasonal message created the lowest of the recorded Christmas Day variations in power demand at 300 megawatts which is equal to about 90,000 kettles being switched on. The recent *Panorama* documentary featuring the Princess of Wales caused a surge of 1,100 megawatts. The documentary on Prince Charles last year scored 700 megawatts.

British to a tea, page 34

Body Shop lorries drive home message

BY SARAH BAGNALL

THE BODY SHOP is to continue painting pictures of missing people on the sides of its lorries to help to reunite families.

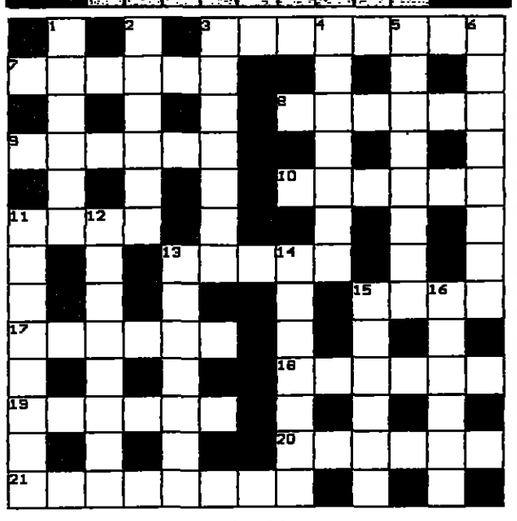
The eco-friendly cosmetic retailer is set to begin its second year of collaboration with the Missing Persons Bureau after a year in which three of the 19 faces that appeared on the company's lorries were found.

A spokesman for Body Shop said its foundation wanted to give some practical help, "so we came up with the idea of putting pictures on our fleet of lorries. These lorries go up and down the country the whole time, from one corner of the country to the next. It was a very simple idea."

The scheme, which started in Christmas 1994, was extended in April by the organisations launching a file of missing people on the Internet.

A spokeswoman for the Missing Persons Bureau said the lorries had prompted lots of calls and several unconfirmed sightings. "Their support has been wonderful. The main thing is that it gives families tremendous encouragement and hope," she said.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 661

ACROSS

3 Arrangement: (right to) control (8)
7 Booze: regularly drink a little (6)
8 Thomas —, *Leviathan* philosopher (6)
9 Enrico —, tenor (6)
10 Eventually; not late (2,4)
11 *Pats at; fingerprints* (4)
13 A spiral (5)
15 Listen to; try (case) (4)
17 Walking eg agitatedly (6)
18 Coiffure (6)
19 Prosper (6)
20 Natural clothing fibre (6)
21 Three wickets at once (3,5)

DOWN

1 Tropical, noisy insect (6)
2 Tubes for liquid; talks boringly (6)
3 Worshipful admirer (7)
4 Fabulous bird; Arizona capital (7)
5 Caption giving translation (8)
6 Auditor; a Saturday crossword (8)
11 Send (goods) (8)
12 Gambling card-game (8)
13 Royal house of the Georges (7)
14 With one's king attacked (2,5)
15 Lifts (6)
16 Very much so! (3,3)

SOLUTION TO No 660
ACROSS: 7 Aspen 8 Newgate 9 Put down 10 Totem 11 Rack 12 Bethesda 15 Distance 16 Pass 19 Sight 21 Ivanhoe 22 Work out 23 Donne
DOWN: 1 Pamper 2 Up sticks 3 Annoy 4 Twitchy 5 Cast 6 Hermia 8 Nondescript 13 Scathing 14 Bastion 15 Disown 17 Stereo 18 Caddy 20 Guru

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CHRISTMAS JUMBO 1995
ACROSS: 1 Ladybird, ladybird, fly away home 15 Isobars 16 Diversiform 17 Airless 18 Hippodrome 19 Laughs in one's face 21 Nonentity 23 Launderer 25 Tristan 26 Siskin 27 Arrogation 29 Jack Ketch 33 Prerequisites 36 Outline 37 Surer 38 Neglects 39 Kilowatt 40 Establish 42 Turns over 43 Tipsiest 44 Unionise 47 Enemy 48 Brigade 49 North-easterly 50 Insistent 52 Sleepiness 54 Barset 57 Sea-song 60 Canal boat 62 Identical 63 Five o'clock shadow 65 Delighting 68 Eurasia 69 Prevaricate 70 Genetic 71 The light at the end of the tunnel
DOWN: 1 Laid hands upon 2 Droppings 3 Bravo 4 Restrain 5 Lady Mayoress 6 Dove 7 Barracuda 8 Rain god 9 From strength to strength 10 Yemen 11 Whatnot 12 Yardstick 13 Overact 14 Eastern church 20 Blood toil tears and sweat 22 Noiselessly 24 Rejoiced 28 Isolation 30 Cheltenham 31 Terrifier 32 Cultivable 34 Eagerness 35 Showpiece 37 Subcontract 41 Artistic 42 The First Fleet 45 Egyptological 46 Chastisement 51 Stokowski 53 Promotion 55 Sacristan 56 Meringue 58 Adverse 59 Goliath 61 Leakage 64 Copra 66 Hindu 67 Dado

Investors seek to oust director of racing group

BY ROBERT MILLER

AS the racing world prepares for one of the biggest days in its calendar, shareholders in Classic Bloodstock, the racing investment group that raised £3 million from 6,500 investors, are mounting an attempt to have one of the directors removed from office.

Among the tens of thousands of racegoers attending Boxing Day meetings, including the premier King George VI steeplechase at Kempton, are an increasing number of dissatisfied Classic investors. They have contacted *The Times* and the Jockey Club, racing's governing body, to express their concern at the way in which the company is being run and what has happened to their investment.

The Department of Trade and Industry investigated Classic this autumn after it failed to file a report and accounts on time. The company confirmed that the DTI had asked for Maureen Moorcroft, a director and the wife of Classic's founder, Ron Dawson, to be replaced "by someone with more experience". Classic incurred an automatic £1,000 penalty from Companies House for late filing. This was paid on November 23. Companies House said last week that Classic had not filed its Annual Return Form, which was due on October 27.

Now investors want Tim Dawson, Ron Dawson's son, removed from office as a director. Cyril Bragg, a Classic shareholder, visited the company's Charnwood headquarters at Newmarket earlier this month "to check my investment". Mr Bragg, who has written to Companies House and the Jockey Club to register his concern, said: "Tim Dawson was, to say the least, insolent and discourteous. The result of my visit was very negative and at the next annual meeting I shall propose his removal."

In 1990, Tim Dawson was "warned off" Britain's racecourses for a year for breaking Jockey Club rules by tendering a dud cheque for a horse at Southwell racecourse.

David Pipe, a director of the Jockey Club, said: "We have had a lot of letters and telephone calls from investors who are unhappy and concerned about the future of Classic Bloodstock and the way in which their money has been used." It is understood that officials at the Jockey Club are keeping "a close watch" on developments.

Vauxhall bypasses jams via Internet

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

VAUXHALL, the carmaker, has devised a novel approach to help people to avoid traffic jams. The company, which is owned by General Motors of America, has linked up with Trafficmaster, the traffic information company, to provide a nationwide system of up-to-the-minute motorway information on the Internet.

When the system goes live next week, users will be able to find details of traffic jams locally and nationwide to help them to plan their journey. The information comes from Trafficmaster's national network of sensors, which provide computerised details of traffic conditions. The Trafficmaster information is then converted and put on the Internet by IBM. Graphical support for the project is being provided by Lowe Howard-Spink, the advertising agency.

Vauxhall was drawn to the Internet by demographics, its users being mainly 25 to 40 and male. Vauxhall estimates that up to 10 per cent of motorists have Internet access.

Wolfgang Schubert, marketing communications director, said: "Our strategy is to provide high-value information."

Vauxhall is also looking to line up a deal with Phillips to provide route-finder information through its Internet pages.

Trafficmaster, set up in 1988, has created the first live traffic information system. It operates on the motorways and 400 miles of trunk road. It was floated in 1994 and is capitalised at £65 million.

Vauxhall's web page is at http://www.vauxhall.co.uk

Ringing in a busy new year

BY SARA MCCONNELL

TELEPHONE banking services are poised for a busy new year as customers emerge from hibernation, fired with guilt about overspending and determined to get their financial affairs under control.

By contrast, staff had a quiet day yesterday, with the 40 working at First Direct, Midland's telephone banking arm, dealing with fewer than the 900 calls expected. Most were to check balances, some to report missing cards and a few to set up bill payments. At Barclays there had been 100 calls by mid-afternoon, most to check balances. Lloyds had one panic call from a customer whose Christmas present cheque had been torn up when opening the envelope. Today is expected to be busier. Last year, NatWest had 5,000 calls compared with 2,000 on Christmas Day. First Direct, where Kevin Newman is chief executive, had 987 calls on Christmas Day and 4,396 on Boxing Day.

For the first time this year, all the main high street banks operated telephone banking services over Christmas. NatWest is to expand its Primeline service from January 2.



Mr Newman and staff member Helen Berry

The Complete Bedroom Shop

SALE
Now On



AND SO TO BED

The Gothic, Beautiful 5'0" Hand Forged Metal Bedstead in Pewter finish was £845 Now Only £675

Bedsteads of Brass Wood Cast Metal Divan & Mattress Sets Furniture & Bedlinens

London 0171 731 3593
Tunbridge Wells 0189 251 5099
Harrogate 0142 350 3060
Wilmslow 0162 552 2292
Edinburgh 0131 225 6998
Stourbridge 0138 437 4717
Keswick, Cumbria 0176 877 4881
Belfast 0123 232 4154
ASTB Studios at Darlington 0132 538 1732
Middlesbrough 0164 223 0988
Newcastle 0191 261 6969
Grimsby 0147 235 3251
Bath 0122 544 4554

هكذا من الاصل



Widowhood is a sure sign that marriage is alive

A woman weeping for her dead husband forms a potent image which suggests we have not yet given up on matrimony. But, says Nigella Lawson, it may also be that, having become alienated from the rituals of death, we want widows to grieve on behalf of us all

This has been the year in which marriage has been scorned, derided, and wilfully and destructively set upon: or so the detractors of Lord Mackay of Clashfern's proposed divorce Bill would have us believe. That marriage is, if not dead, then in the last stages of a slow wasting disease, is something of a truism of our age. And yet would we still see the widow as such a potent symbol if we really had given up on the institution of matrimony?

Perhaps the answer is yes. Perhaps we have in the past year latched so readily upon the image — the idea of Leah Rabin stoically, nobly carrying forward her husband's ideals — because we prize a union we fear is becoming extinct. Maybe, too, this explains our focus on the widow of the knifed schoolmaster Philip Lawrence, who is expected not so much to weep for her murdered husband but to speak for him.

But our fascination with the widow cannot just be seen as a marker, one way or another, of our collective view on marriage, although it obviously is linked to it. The widow as a public figure, from Jackie Kennedy to Leah Rabin, means something specific to us all. And it is significant too that the widow-as-public-persona, whom we respect, is in marked contrast with our attitude towards widows whose husbands have never occupied public space or the popular imagination.

These shadowy women — and this is a common complaint — are expected to all but disappear in widowhood; they feel themselves to be diminished, not just in their own eyes (which is grief talking) but in the eyes of others. It is only the widows of the famous who are deemed to grow in stature.

The power with which they are popularly imbued, however, is not quite theirs: for in carrying on the mantle of their late husbands they are also seen to assume something of them. "It's all very well that in marriage two people become one," wrote Cicely Hamilton in her 1909 polemic *Marriage as a Trade*. "The question is, which one?" The question is all the more potent with regard to the state of widowhood. If traditionally speaking marriage involved a woman's identity being merged with the identity of her husband, then widowhood sees her being subsumed by it.



Leah Rabin, carrying on her husband's ideals

And yet the public role of widow is not merely as a cipher for the woman's late husband. The faces of Jackie Kennedy or Leah Rabin might immediately evoke their loss, the public loss — that's to say, their husbands — and yet they burn upon the public consciousness in their own right. They are no longer the other half, but an imposing whole. It is probably the only occasion in which a solitary woman is accorded so much respect.

It is not just that society's attitude changes towards the woman in question, but towards her whole life. In the Second World War, and in its aftermath, women were left bringing up their children single-handed, and they were praised for it, praised for raising, without a husband, children who were law-abiding and God-fearing. War-widows were seen as purveyors and keepers of the country's values, and esteemed for it. And yet a single mother now is shorthand for the decline of society, the plummeting morality of our age. There is a discrepancy here. For if a woman in one instance may be capable of bringing up a child single-handed, why, in another, must she be so spectacularly catastrophic at it?

The reason for her husband's absence cannot itself explain her aptitude or lack of it for motherhood. The difference is that a widow has not chosen to be without her husband (nor, for that matter have many divorced or abandoned wives) and therefore her virtue is not impugned. The woman who sheds her husband in less tragic circumstances must only have herself to blame, so no mercy. She's a bad woman, a bad wife, a bad mother.

The widow on the other hand, publicly at least, runs the danger of being recast as saint. The grieving widow holding her family together is genuinely a heart-rending prospect, but the sympathy engendered is more than personal, it is instinctive on a symbolic level. The picture of the mater dolorosa is ingrained in our society: this is woman at her most elevated.

Widowhood shows women at their weakest — laid low by grief — and yet at their strongest too. Indeed, women are expected to be strong. When Leah Rabin gave interviews to the world's press, or was photographed at the funeral of her husband, what people wanted was not to see evidence of her suffering — not openly at least — but signs of her inspiring strength.

You could argue that women are valued for their strength here partly because they are seen as wounded, almost castrated. For a widowed women is in some sense neutered: a woman with the sexuality taken away, but still bearing the imprint of a male. She is safe.

But that is not the only reason she is allowed to be strong, to be the rock rather than the one leaning against it. The weakness of women and the strength of men is one of the lies that we all seem to have some interest in perpetuating. Traditionalists argue that women's subservience to men is the natural order of things, and opponents of this view merely respond that male dominance is inflicted unfairly and is not natural. No one stops to point out that anyone who has at any time had any intimate relationship with a member of the opposite sex knows that that's not how things are. Most husbands rely on their wives' strength, just as most wives recognise their husbands' otherwise carefully hidden vulnerability. Of course men and women alike are both strong and vulnerable, but in many marriages the great secret is that the woman provides the moral base, the ballast.

Widowhood blows this secret out of the water. It can no longer be hidden, and the widow must carry on the task she was expected to assume as wife. Most men, to some degree or other, rely on women to control the emotional and moral thermostat of their life together. And death, as much as birth, is seen as the business of women.

It is significant that at Yitzak Rabin's funeral it was not only his wife who held centre stage, but his granddaughter, too. Now it's true that we are not afraid of weeping women, and are aghast at public displays of emotion by men. But that's not the only reason we latch more eagerly onto the grieving woman than to the bereaved man. For all the sobbing, we trust women to be able to handle death. They'll do it for all the rest of us.

Perhaps the most important reason we are impressed by and drawn towards the spectacle of the widow, almost as some mourning diva, is not because we no longer respect the rites of marriage but because we have in our lives become distanced from the necessary rituals of death.

MAGNUM



The sad face of Jackie Kennedy evoked her own and the public loss of her husband

INSIDE SECTION 2
Need a break from turkey and telly? We list the top films and shows open this week Page 31

'I almost miss house arrest'

Burma's Aung San Suu Kyi talks to Jane Drinkwater about freedom

AUNG SAN SUU KYI's crumbling villa is a new landmark in Rangoon. Travellers flock to see the legendary woman since they've heard she likes a teatime chat with foreigners because it brings back memories of her 20 years in England. But since her release in July from six years' house arrest, Suu Kyi is too busy to reminisce about her days as an Oxford housewife. As the leader of the National League for Democracy she finds it demanding enough answering the needs of diplomats, party activists and journalists.



Suu Kyi: challenge to a dictator

Hers is a strange history. Her father, General Aung San, remains a national icon as the architect of Burma's independence from Britain. He was assassinated by political rivals in 1947. Suu Kyi was brought up in Burma, but went to Oxford at 19 to read politics, philosophy and economics. Later she married an Englishman and had two sons.

She returned to Burma in 1988 to nurse her sick mother. Appalled by the dire economic situation and the brutal military regime, she began campaigning for democracy. But when she criticised the dictator, General Ne Win, she was placed under house arrest, during which she won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Suu Kyi looks youthful for her 50 years. She is dressed in a lungi, a traditional skirt, and fitted blue silk bodice, her hair pulled back and decorated with a jasmine sprig.

"In some ways," she says, "I miss the house arrest. I would set myself tasks, but I never got through everything. Now I have even less time. There were times when I did not have enough to eat," she says. "It was my choice . . . I did not want to accept anything from the authorities."

Her weight fell to six and a half stone, and she became malnourished. To cope with isolation, she adopted a strict regime of rising early, meditating and jogging on a running machine, a gift from her husband Michael Aris, of Oxford University.

Six years of house arrest have made Suu Kyi determined and resolute. They have also made her an emotionally impenetrable figure who refuses to talk about the pain of being separated from husband and children.

"Well, I did see my family. There was one point when I did not for about two and a half years, and then they were allowed in to visit. But how can I talk about what I went through as suffering? It is nothing compared to what many of my colleagues have gone through.

"They were in jail and had the constant worry of not knowing how the lives of their families were affected. I knew mine were safe in Europe."

When I ask her how it feels to be free, she becomes irritated. "I always felt free, even under house arrest," she says, "so this is a strange question for me. It was my choice to stay and to support the democratic movement. In any case I think it is far better to be under house arrest for a just cause than to be free and to be doing something else."

Friendship

Now we feel part of the Rukba family and this is a great comfort.

Dorothy & Bill Howell

former owners of family business

This quote is just one testimonial to Rukba's work. Today too many elderly people are forced to live in poverty – or face the trauma of leaving their homes. Unfortunate circumstances have left them in need of urgent financial help.

At Rukba we are helping 5000 elderly people, who have devoted their professional or personal lives to others, to stay in their own homes by giving them a small regular additional income. Our network of 750 volunteers provides friendship and practical help.

Rukba
Helping elderly people stay independent

If you would like further information about Rukba's work and/or can help with a donation, please complete the coupon below. Extra funds are needed now to help more elderly people.

☐ Please send me more information

☐ I enclose my donation of £_____ (cheque payable to Rukba)

Name _____ Address _____

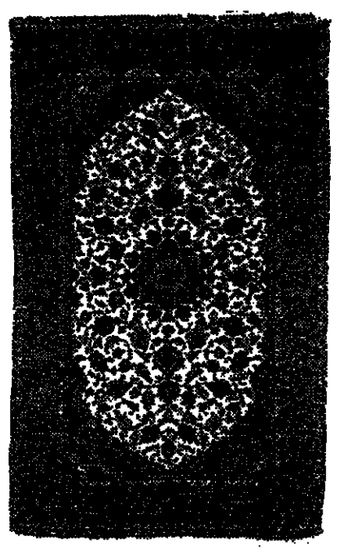
_____ Postcode _____

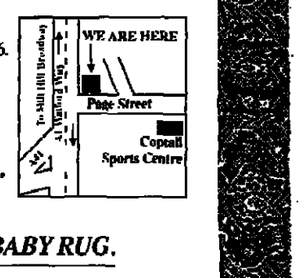
Please send to William Rathbone, Rukba, FREEPOST, 6 Avonmore Road, London W14 8BR. The Royal United Kingdom Beneficent Association. Reg. Charity No. 210729 T

GIGANTIC
END OF YEAR SALE OF ORIENTAL
65% CARPETS
WITH UP TO
REDUCTIONS
SALE STARTING TODAY

A few examples:

	WAS	NOW
Karadja 139 x 84cm (4'7" x 2'9")	£55	£29
Old Shiraz Kelim 212 x 132cm (7' x 4' 4")	£168	£58
Mousel 205 x 107cm (6'9" x 3'6")	£250	£88
Hamadan Runner (Antique) 246 x 95cm (8'1" x 3'2")	£310	£98
Old Bachtiar 202 x 135cm (6'8" x 4'5")	£425	£148
Nain 149 x 95cm (4'9" x 3'2")	£695	£198
Golden Afghan 301 x 230cm (9'10" x 7'7")	£1130	£395
Kashan 348 x 249cm (11'5" x 8'2")	£2195	£768
Isfahan 387 x 263cm (12'9" x 8'8")	£2550	£888
Sarouk Mahal 414 x 305cm (13'7" x 10'1")	£2850	£985





MON, TUES, WED & THU 10-7, FRI 10-2 SAT CLOSED, SUN & BANK HOLIDAYS 11-6.
AT - 1 Page Street, Fiveways Corner,
Mill Hill, London NW7 2EL. Telephone: 0181-202 0002 by the turning of Watford Way to Copthall Sports Centre. NO PARKING PROBLEMS - PARK RIGHT OUTSIDE.
TEAMTRADE LTD. T/A ORIENTAL CARPET MERCHANTS
LONDONS LARGEST RETAILER OF ORIENTAL RUGS.
ALL PURCHASES CAN BE EXCHANGED.
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.
FIRST 50 CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE A FREE BABY RUG.

As 1995 draws to a close, top *Times* writers choose the year's winners, losers, heroes,

The Times People of the Year


REUTERS




PA


ORDE CLIASON

PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR AWARD

LIKE Myra Hindley's more recent excursion into confessional journalism, the Dianorama interview begs the same question: was it a manipulative act of image-control or the sincere outpourings of a troubled mind? The answer has since become all but irrelevant. For days after the interview, no one talked about anything else.

What the Princess of Wales achieved was to win from even those who considered themselves hostile the sort of grudging respect Margaret Thatcher seemed to inspire. In airing her grievances and concerns so publicly, the Princess appealled to the people, and found in them her best ally. And had it not been for her *Panorama* performance, she would not be in such a strong position in regard to the divorce the Queen and the Prince of Wales feel is so devoutly to be wished.

Her genius is for the sudden conversion: even those who rank talking about the Royal Family on a par with discussing star signs are finding themselves eagerly joining the debate. Angling for people's hearts, but she seems to touch their minds, too. Royalists may worry about her effect on the institution of monarchy, but the Di-Hard with a Vengeance act, as it has been dubbed, has ensured she remains big box office.

NIGELLA LAWSON

NO WAY TO TREAT A LADY AWARD

THE FACE of Estée Lauder was as strained as the couple's relationship at the premiere of Hugh Grant's film *Nine Months* this summer. Liz Hurley was making it clear that not even a fop-haired heartthrob oozing upper-crust charm could get away with such a public display of downmarket philandering.

Grant's decision to consort with Divine, the Hollywood hooker, was no way to treat a lady like Liz Hurley, who said when she heard the news: "I felt like I'd been shot."

A close challenger for the award was the Roman Catholic-baiting journalist Christopher Hitchens, for his attack on Mother Teresa in his book *The Missionary Position*. He argued that the ancient Albanian nun is "an anti-abortionist zealot parading as a conscience of the world's wealthy" who promulgates "a cult based on death, suffering and subjection".

As for the Party of the Year, it began with Bollinger and blinis, then moved on to a dinner of lobster tails and fillet steak. Thrown by Sir James Goldsmith, it was to celebrate the wedding of his daughter, Jemima, to Imran Khan, and the guest list read like a cross between the Sandringham phone book and a supermodel's Filofax. One final award for Hairstyle of the Year goes to Paula Yates.

P.H.S.

INSTITUTION OF THE YEAR AWARD

POST-Lottery tristesse... This time last year, we had just had the first big winner and the first media pursuit, a host of newborn jokes, and the meanest Christmas present ever devised. An old lady announced to her son: "I've bought a lottery ticket, and if I win you shall have half."

For a while, we giggled at Anthea Turner's torrent of balls, and thought it "good for charity". But before the five Lottery Funds had creaked into action, the arithmetic had begun to sink in. When Winston Churchill, MP, hit his personal jackpot, the nation winced; by summer, the pale figures queueing at terminals with their Giro money began to look a bit desperate. Scratchcards added another drift of litter to our sad towns.

Good-news winners were scarce: jackpots went either to the publicity-shy, felons or tabloid Love Rats whose exwives joyfully told all. Then Camelot got lucky with the Bensons of Hull: 37 years married, pleasingly awash with family values, all offspring in work.

It wasn't enough. With charity and business takings down by billions, and countless organisations seething at having their bids turned down, the December scandals found us unforgiving. A short, bitter, affair it was: with a legacy of morose addiction.

LIBBY PURVES

PEACEMAKER OF THE YEAR AWARD

PEACE carries a heavy price in the Middle East. Anwar Sadat paid the price in 1981, Yitzhak Rabin in 1995. Rabin was doomed as soon as he shook hands with Yassir Arafat on the White House lawn in September 1993.

Rabin was probably the only man who could have steered Israel toward an imperfect settlement with Palestinians. To fanatical right-wing Jews this showed weakness; to Rabin, it showed strength. He fought for Israel's independence, was Chief-of-Staff in the Six Day War, and, as Defence Minister in the late 1980s, told his troops to "break the bones" of Palestinian demonstrators.

Rabin chain-smoked, drank whisky (in a society devoted to fruit juice) and was occasionally irascible. He conducted a life-long feud with his Labour rival and successor, Shimon Peres. On the eve of the Six Day War he suffered a brief *nervous collapse*.

Yet he went on to win a famous victory in 1967, and had the foresight afterwards to warn Israelis against euphoria, predicting that occupation would affect the occupiers as well as the occupied.

Rabin's slow, even ponderous, gravelly voice inspired confidence, and it was precisely because of this that he could be bold in pursuit of peace.

RICHARD OWEN

IDEOLOGUE OF THE YEAR

FORGET Post-Thatcherism, forget the social market, forget New Labour and communitarianism: 1995 marked the return to favour of the most influential political scientist between Aristotle and Karl Marx, **Alexis de Tocqueville**. His anatomy of democracy has still not been bettered.

By setting the French revolutionary Directorate alongside the club politics of England and the "mob rule" of America, he tried to marry modern democracy to modern capitalism. His case for the American path was pragmatic and compelling. So too was his warning of the dwindling power of Europe's "intermediate institutions" to limit elective dictatorship. Tocqueville was the first communitarian, the first decentralist, the first systematic anti-socialist.

He warned against losing the "habit of association", of privatising our lives round family and friends beneath no other authority but the "immense and tutelary power of the State". Such atomised democracy, he said, would leave Europe open to the menace of socialist dictatorship. He was right. He still is.

SIMON JENKINS

BUILDING OF THE YEAR

LAST spring, amid a grove a trees on a hidden slope of the Sussex Downs, the doors opened on **Uppark House**. This glorious building had been recreated from the shell of the Georgian mansion gutted by a fire in 1989. For a long time the residence of the Featherstonehaugh family, it was owned by the National Trust and its destruction posed a challenge: to raze it and obliterate all trace of the structure, or piece it together again from 4,000 dustbins of rubble.

The answer was the most meticulous restoration ever. Each splinter of doorframe, each flake of plaster, each thread of silk salvaged from the ashes was cloned. Even the paint chemicals were recreated. The result is an English masterpiece brought back to life through the medium of craftsmanship. The nation's finest carpenters and masons, plasterers and carvers, painters and dyers, seamstresses, carpet makers, metalworkers and furnishers flocked to "reproduce" Uppark. They brought not artistry but that unsung talent, craftsmanship.

Those who deplore reproduction as pastiche should see Uppark and marvel. This is what Britain does best — and should be proud to say so.

SIMON JENKINS

POLITICIANS OF THE YEAR

THE Great Survivor, **John Major**, is the political winner of the year. Battered at Westminster and written-off by the press, he confronted his critics one sunny afternoon in the garden of 10 Downing Street, and won. He only received the two to one backing of Tory MPs. But having skilfully neutralised Michael Heseltine, his most likely successor, beforehand, it was enough to end the increasingly self-destructive leadership speculation. Six months on, however, it looks a wasted opportunity. Although his personal position has been strengthened, the Tories have failed to retake the political initiative from Labour. The Government still looks tired and without clear direction, while its poll ratings are stuck in a deep trough. But Mr Major, whose demise has so often been predicted, remains there to fight a still unscathed Tony Blair.

The runner-up of the year is the man who dared and lost, **John Redwood**. A year ago, he was seen as a marginal member of the Cabinet who made earnest and often quirky speeches which annoyed his colleagues. But in late June Mr Redwood showed he had daring. After resigning from the Cabinet, he displayed flair, and a previously unseen light touch, in mounting his challenge.

Since then he has established himself as the leader of the Euro-sceptic right through a series of speeches and articles which have carved out an alternative approach. He is well-placed for a prominent position in the leadership, whether the Tories win or lose the next election. By contrast, the also-ran of the year is the man who paused, **Michael Portillo**. Faced with the chance to strike, he held back. His friends hoped that Mr Major would drop out after the first ballot and made indiscreet preparations for a campaign headquarters for a second ballot. But when this did not happen, Mr Portillo looked a loser and was pushed aside to Defence. But he undermined his chances of appearing as the leader of the loyalist right by ill-judged rabble-rousing at the Blackpool conference; and he saw Mr Redwood emerge as its new champion.

The other non-runner was **General Colin Powell** who, after coast-to-coast book tour, had the Republican nomination for the taking, but disliked what was involved in running for President and stood on the sidelines — waiting for the summons from whomever is nominated.

PETER RIDDELL

SERVICES TO SILICONE



PAMELA Anderson, the *Baywatch* babe, has been given a special award for services to silicone after the publicity she has given to breast augmentation. In fact, silicone implants are now being replaced by bags filled with salt water or soya oil. Soon it may not be so much a case of passing the salt, as making a pass at the salt.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

TEAM OF THE YEAR

THE sporting highlight of the year came on a September evening in upstate New York when Faldo, Walton and the rest of Bernard Gallacher's unfancied European golfers overturned the mighty (and mighty cocky) Americans on their own turf. So my nomination for team of the year is the **European Ryder Cup** team. My runners-up would be the **Benetton** motor racing team. They might not have had the best car but they had the best driver and, crucially, the best team in the pits.

KEITH BLACKMORE

NOVELIST OF THE YEAR

IF endurance in the teeth of jeering critics made one *Times* Novelist of the Year, **Martin Amis** would surely win hands down. Fortunately *The Information* — his masterly deconstruction of literary life — may justly claim the title anyway. It is quite simply the funniest, as well as the cleverest, novel of 1995. Like his chief rival, **Salman Rushdie** (whose peppery panorama *The Moor's Last Sigh* is now banned in his native Bombay), Amis thrives on adversity.

The death of Kingsley Amis was a terrible blow to his son; but when Martin Amis's next novel appears, his loss may prove to be English literature's gain.

DANIEL JOHNSON

POET OF THE YEAR

NOT only the first Irishman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature since Samuel Beckett in 1969, **Seamus Heaney** is also the first poet to have become a household name in Ireland, North and South, since Yeats. He becomes *Times* Poet of the Year not only for his own achievements in verse, gathered in his *New Selected Poems*, but also for his vigorous public defence of poetry in his Oxford lectures, published as *The Redress of Poetry*.

DANIEL JOHNSON

TRADER OF THE YEAR

THE Streetwise Trader of the Year award goes to **Nick Leeson**, the 28-year-old from Watford who brought the once mighty, if a touch toffy-nosed, Barings Bank to ruination with dealings on the Far East money markets. Barings got an £860 million debt mountain; Leeson got six and a half years.

MARTIN WALLER

DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

THIS year, wild-child fashion designer **John Galliano** could do no wrong. While his special brand of fantasy fashion continued to thrill, in July it was announced that he would succeed Hubert de Givenchy as the designer for the grand French couture house which had dressed the likes of Audrey Hepburn.

In October he was duly named Designer of the Year at the Lloyds Bank British Fashion Awards for the *third* time.

At the ceremony Galliano, looking a cross between Disney favourites Captain Hook and Pocahontas, may have scared the living daylights out of Deputy PM Michael Heseltine (who presented him with the trophy), but the long ovation proved he was the popular vote.

IAIN R. WEBB

DISCOVERY OF THE YEAR

BY cooling atoms to within a whisper of absolute zero, physicists in 1995 created a new form of matter. Instead of behaving as individuals, the atoms of rubidium gave up their individuality to become a collective governed by the rules of quantum physics. The **Bose-Einstein condensate**, as this state is called, was predicted by Einstein and the Indian physicist Satyendra Bose 70 years ago, and achieved in Colorado by a team from the US National Institute of Standards and Technology and the University of Colorado. *Science* named it Molecule of the Year — an irony, as it is not a molecule.

NIGEL HAWKES

ARTIST OF THE YEAR

THE winner is: **Damien Hirst**. He carried off the Turner Prize; he famously turned meat into metaphor with his "cow piece" *Mother and Child Divided*; he achieved the remarkable feat of getting the tabloids to discuss the meaning of art; and to some experts his startling work said something profound about our existence. The runner-up is: **The cow**. Let's not forget her contribution.

RICHARD MORRISON

DISEASES OF THE YEAR

WHEN I started on *The Times*, my first account of what is now known as Aids was never published. Its symptoms were considered too unpleasant for *Times* readers to contemplate at breakfast. We are tougher now and this year three horrendous diseases have caused a shudder with the marmalade and toast during the year.

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human equivalent of **"mad cow" disease**, is inevitably fatal, usually within a year. Cases seem to occur by chance, although there may be a vague family history. In other patients it has followed neurosurgery, corneal transplants, or the use of growth hormone derived from the post-mortem room. Disease which starts years after infection destroys both the physical and mental powers of the brain. There is the progressive loss of all the senses so that the patients end their days blind, deaf, imbecile and with an existence rendered appalling by paralyses in which the limbs are subject to painful, crippling spasms.

Necrotising fasciitis, the flesh-eating disease of the tabloids, is caused by the rapid spread of, initially, streptococci, and later a mixed bag of anaerobic and other bacteria in the subcutaneous tissue which becomes red, swollen and gangrenous. Wide excision and antibiotics with fluid replacement saves about 70 per cent of cases.

The third ghastly disease this year has been **Ebola** fever of Zaire and Sudan. Spread is by a filovirus which causes initial symptoms of headache, vomiting and confusion which are soon eclipsed by a bleeding tendency so that the patients own organs are destroyed by spontaneous haemorrhages.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR

IN less than two years Oasis have transformed a moribund British rock scene into something approaching its former world-class glory. *(What's The Story) Morning Glory?* is the biggest selling British album of the year. As the group's sole songwriter and mastermind, the lion's share of the credit must go to **Noel Gallagher**. His songs appeal to fans across the board and the generations.

DAVID SINCLAIR

ACTOR OF THE YEAR

JUST when you thought that nobody could bring anything fresh to the character of James Bond, that jurassic relic of political incorrectness, along comes the twinkling Irishman **Pierce Brosnan** and gives the series new life and sparkle. Brosnan's delivery of the one-line quips in *Goldeneye* rivalled Connery at his peak. Runner-up: **The Princess of Wales**.

RICHARD MORRISON

SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

FOR most of the decade, **Stratford School** in east London has been making headlines for all the wrong reasons. Almost closed for lack of pupils and blighted by highly publicised wrangles among its governors, examination results collapsed and the school was subjected to "special measures" after a damning inspectors' report.

This year, at last, there is light at the end of the tunnel. A seven-fold increase in its GCSE pass rate since 1992 made it one of the 100 most improved schools, the inspectors returned and Stratford came off the failing list. An unheralded success, but a triumph against the odds.

JOHN O'LEARY

FILM OF THE YEAR

KEN LOACH's film **Land and Freedom** ripped the Spanish Civil War out of the history books and made it relevant to today's fractious world. And it showed one of Britain's finest film-makers (always more appreciated abroad) widening his scope, venturing into the European epic without sacrificing his commitment to people, their faces, follies and dreams.

For runner-up: **Ed Wood**. Who said you couldn't make good art out of bad art? Tim Burton fashioned a wonderful film from the life of Edward D. Wood Jr., one of the worst directors ever to work in Hollywood.

GEOFF BROWN

TRIAL OF THE YEAR



WHEN defence lawyer **Johnnie Cochrane** gripped O.J. Simpson after the "not guilty", verdict was it relief or disbelief? This court case made the Guinness trial look snappy. It also made millionaires of the lawyers, a laughing stock of Judge Lance Ito, and left the victims' families determined to sue O.J. Dominick Dunne pronounced American justice dead.

QUENTIN LETTS

EMBARRASSMENT OF THE YEAR

MY nomination for embarrassment of the year was a tiny incident, unimportant and scarcely noted. It did its victims no harm but is amusing for the light it sheds on the way our ding-dong method of debate distorts the brain of those who participate. Challenged by Tony Blair at PM's Questions to list his achievements as Prime Minister, John Major began to reel off a list of statistics demonstrating how much the economy had improved from the dire state in which he inherited it. He was interrupted by laughter. He had forgotten from whom he had inherited the economy. Mr Major was Mrs Thatcher's Chancellor of the Exchequer.

MATTHEW PARRIS

DEBATER OF THE YEAR

THERE were no memorable debates in 1995. There were some memorable *votes* — memorable divisions, tense expectancy and memorable results, but the debates themselves were of a fairly uniformly low standard. Malcolm Rifkind, the new Foreign Secretary, has been better than expected, and two newcomers to the Cabinet, William Hague (Welsh Secretary) and Michael Forsyth (Scottish Secretary) have impressed at the dispatch box in Questions this year. But Forsyth put in an embarrassed performance in the famous fisheries debate which the Government narrowly lost.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has been widely feted for winning the exchanges with his Shadow, Labour's Jack Straw, over the sacking of the Director of Prisons; but Howard — though wonderfully brazen, as ever — caught Straw on a bad afternoon. Labour frontbenchers have been reliably dull, Tony Blair sparky but faintly unconvincing.

Asked to name a debater of the year, I would refuse. *Forced* to name a debater of the year, I would nominate **Robin Cook**. Labour's Foreign Affairs spokesman is now the best parliamentarian on either front bench. He had no chance to shine in 1995, but his class always showed.

MATTHEW PARRIS

هكذا من الاصل

zeros, saints and sinners for awards — some serious, some firmly tongue-in-cheek

MAN OF THE YEAR

Tony Blair

TWO experienced Tory politicians were recently discussing the sad outlook for their party. One thought the next general election was already lost, probably by a large majority. The other believed it could still conceivably be won, even if that was unlikely. The optimist then turned to the pessimist and said: "But don't you agree, we would still win if Tony Blair were to die?" The pessimist replied that in that case the general election would be in the bag.

Tony Blair has been the most effective opposition leader for 20 years and he is the leading British politician of 1995. The Tories beat old Labour in the past four general elections, and there is still a folk memory that when old Labour was last in power they made a thorough mess of things — rather like the mess the French are making now. Neil Kinnock did quite a lot to reform the old Labour Party, but it retained its ancient character, even if it was wearing a red rose and a new suit of clothes. John Smith came from the right wing of the old Labour Party. New Labour has been Tony Blair's creation and would not have happened without him.

Undoubtedly, new Labour attracts voters for whom the old Labour Party was unthinkable. The Labour Party always had some support from middle-class intellectuals but it was based on mass trade unions and the industrial workers. To large sections of the middle class the unions seemed more of a threat than natural allies. Tony Blair, partly because he is so clearly middle-class himself, has removed most of that fear. He has also understood the new technological professionals of the electronic age. He knows what the new middle class wants, and that reassures the old middle class as well.

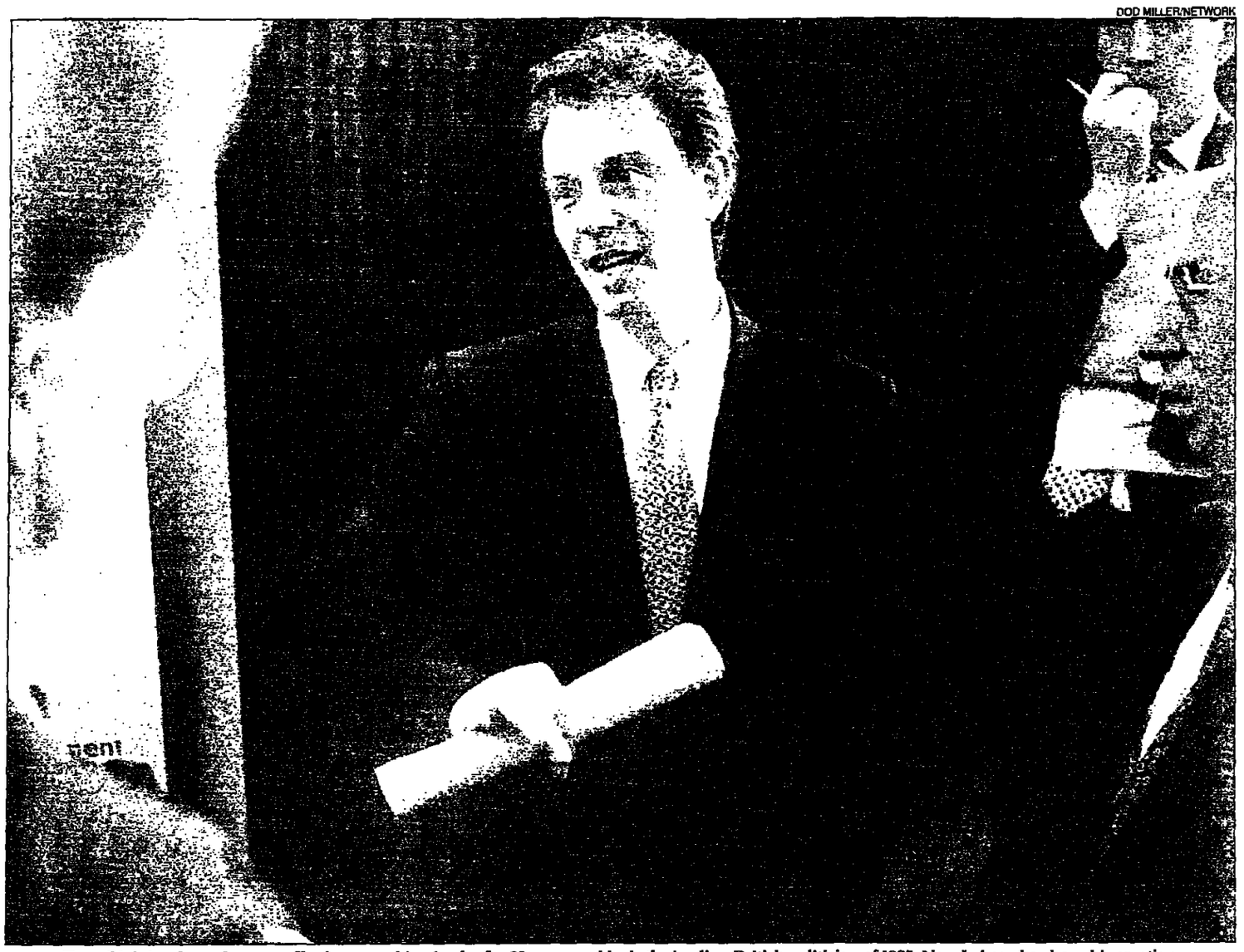
Throughout 1995, Tony Blair has kept up the pressure on the Government. Repeatedly, after John Major's leadership election and again in the autumn, it looked as though the Conservatives might be about to start a recovery. Each time it faded rapidly, partly because Tony Blair maintained the momentum of the Opposition. Whether he can keep it up through 1996 nobody can yet say, but his technical performance as Leader of the Opposition has been skilful. He combines the virtues of Hugh Gaitskell and Harold Wilson, and may be the best Leader of the Opposition the Labour Party has ever produced.

> He may be the best Leader of of the Opposition ever

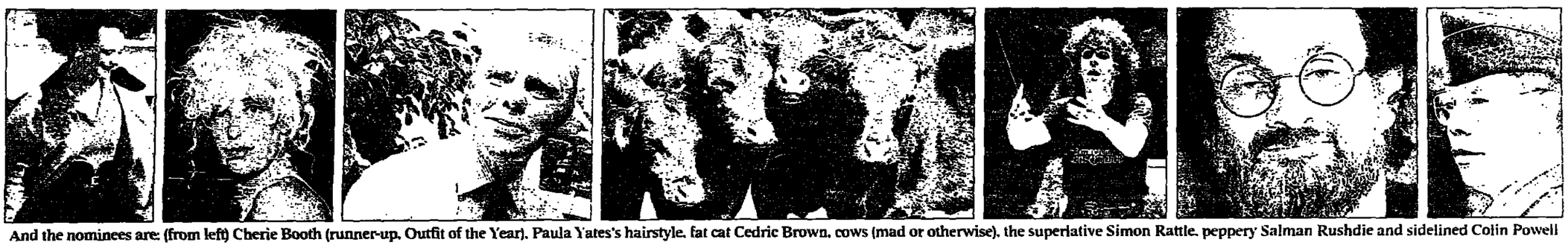
There is, however, still a universal doubt. Tony Blair has been almost too lucky a politician. He has fought stage-managed battles such as the one over Clause Four but he has not been tested by real difficulty. Obviously, John Major has been tested repeatedly. Tony Blair has been lucky partly because he has been skilful, but nobody can tell how he will react under great shocks and reverses. People also doubt that old Labour is really dead; they think it is only sleeping. Tony Blair has established himself as the new St George of new Labour but the old dragon of old Labour still seems to be ready to breathe fire.

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

DOD MILLER/NETWORK



Tony Blair has been the most effective opposition leader for 20 years and he is the leading British politician of 1995. New Labour has been his creation



And the nominees are: (from left) Cherie Booth (runner-up, Outfit of the Year), Paula Yates's hairstyle, fat cat Cedric Brown, cows (mad or otherwise), the superlative Simon Rattle, peppery Salman Rushdie and sidelined Colin Powell

SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

JONATHAN EDWARDS won the gold medal for the triple jump in the world championships in Gothenburg, breaking — shattering, more like — the world record twice in the process. More to the point, this modest, church-going man gave the drug-ravaged world of athletics an unfamiliar touch of grace.

KEITH BLACKMORE

BAD SPORT OF THE YEAR

ERIC CANTONA (who else?) gave new meaning to crowd participation when he jumped into the crowd at Selhurst Park, the Crystal Palace ground, in January, and his words and deeds, on and off the pitch, kept us on the edge of our seats. In another year, the American tennis player, **Jeff Tarango**, would have run away with this award for the volley of abuse directed at a Wimbledon umpire, which earned him disqualification and lasting infamy.

KEITH BLACKMORE

SHAREHOLDER OF THE YEAR

PETER DAWE, whose company, Unipalm, was taken over by UUNet, the American Internet company, last month could qualify as entrepreneur or dealmaker, but his role as continuing shareholder rather than bailing out and enjoying the spoils makes him special. The company was founded with £7,000 nine years ago and, when the sale was agreed, was valued at £90 million, with Mr Dawe holding £22 million of shares. By the time the deal was completed it was worth £152 million and Mr Dawe had a shareholding worth almost £40 million.

Mr Dawe has 1,000 business customers and is looking to the future rather than counting his winnings.

LINDSAY COOK

DEAL OF THE YEAR

THE audacious £9.4 billion **Glaxo Wellcome merger** in January was masterminded by Sir Richard Sykes and set in motion tremendous upheaval in the pharmaceutical industry and a year of megadeals in the City, bringing back bonus cheer to many dealmakers. In late December the company raised $1 billion by selling its stake in Warner Wellcome.

LINDSAY COOK

FAT CAT OF THE YEAR

CEDRIC BROWN, chief executive of British Gas, rose to notoriety when he was awarded a 75 per cent pay rise to £475,000 in 1994. This year he suffered the indignity of a 30-stone pig being named Cedric for the day of the company's annual meeting. But he has received more compensation with enhanced pension arrangements said to be worth £3.4 million.

Humphrey the Cat, who went awol from No 10 this year in search of better scoff, is of course runner-up.

LINDSAY COOK

BEST REASON FOR NOT GOING OUT

LONG-AWAITED gloves-off version of **Pride and Prejudice** by Andrew Davies held the nation in narrative thrall and made even the quadrille seem sexy. Colin Firth as all-fencing, all-swimming, all-taking-a-bath Mr Darcy attained national dreamboat status. People invited out on Sundays made wild excuses such as: "Damn, I find I have an X-ray appointment."

LYNNE TRUSS

AND . . .

BEST reason for preferring an X-ray appointment: **Castles**, BBC1's middle-class soap opera conducted entirely by telephone. Typical line: "Mum! I've been trying to phone you!" The televisual equivalent of a barium meal. *Castles* lay dead in the water, wrapped in telephone flex and weighed down by directories. Best scene: Anna Cropper standing at mirror, adjusting her scarf, before answering phone.

LYNNE TRUSS

AND . . .

MOST famous TV personality unknown to millions until news story broke: news that **Michael Barrymore** was gay preceded for many people the news that Michael Barrymore existed. Conclusive proof of cultural two-nations effect with regard to game shows. Efficiently disconnected Jonathan Ross's Autocue at British Comedy Awards. Bliss.

LYNNE TRUSS

DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

IN HIS second year in charge of the Royal Court **Stephen Daldry** has put that theatre back at the centre of the theatrical map. He has nurtured a handful of superb new playwrights, launched the "Royal Court Classics" season in the West End, and also directed some of the most talked-about productions in Britain. Next year: director of the National Theatre? **Mark Rylance** is runner-up; his *Macbeth* was probably the worst ever seen since Peter O'Toole's notorious performance. "Please God, let him not direct himself in a play again," begged Benedict Nightingale in *The Times*. Unfortunately, since Rylance has been appointed director of the new Globe Theatre, he probably will.

RICHARD MORRISON

OUTFIT OF THE YEAR



NOTHING came close to Colin Firth and those trousers. Breeches to be precise, as worn by Fitzwilliam Darcy, hero of the BBC adaptation of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. The sight of Firth wearing button flap, fall-front breeches sent women everywhere into fainting fits. The Regency dandy's preference for a snug fit added to the garment's charm. Runner-up: Cherie Blair.

IAIN R. WEBB

CONDUCTOR OF THE YEAR

While other British orchestras stumbled into the financial mire, **Sir Simon Rattle**'s City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra went from strength to strength, and its festival of 1940s music was the artistic high point of the VE-Day anniversary celebrations. In addition, Rattle made superlative forays into "authentic" music with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.

RICHARD MORRISON

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

WITHOUT quibble, the trophy must go to **Symbian Pandora**. Not, despite its name, a new Euro-hatchback but a new animal altogether, discovered only two weeks ago by sharp-eyed marine biologists.

I make this award unhesitatingly because Symbian Pandora, although it lives on the lip of a lobster, has developed two penises. This seems to me to be so moving an example of unshakeable optimism in the face of imminent disaster that I cannot think of Symbian Pandora without weeping.

ALAN COREN

BUSINESSMAN OF THE YEAR

SIR BRIAN PITMAN, the unassuming chief executive of Lloyds Bank, has had a brilliant year. In August the takeover of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society was completed with 800,000 investors receiving bonuses of up to £14,044 each. The lead bank in the Canary Wharf failure with £52 million at risk, Lloyds escaped with virtually no losses when the deal to sell to a consortium including Prince al-Waleed bin Talal was completed before Christmas. On Thursday the merger of Lloyds and TSB will be completed, making it the second largest banking group in the UK. Crowning the year for shareholders is a rise from 552p at the beginning of the year to more than 840p with profits likely to top £1.5 billion for the full year.

LINDSAY COOK

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

WHEN **Richard Budge** bid £300 million more than his nearest rival last year to secure the majority of British Coal many thought the gamble would not pay off. But after a year of setting new production records, rising profits and coal prices, the early repayment of half the company's borrowings, bonuses for miners and a soaring share price, few doubters are left. His biggest test will be in 1998 when the fixed contracts to supply coal to power generators are renegotiated.

LINDSAY COOK

RADIO PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

JOHN INVERDALE, the thinking woman's hunk, has done more than anyone else to make the revamped Radio 5 Live listenable. Inverdale, known as Des Lynam-in-waiting, straddles sport and general presenting with consummate skill. Wooden spoon award to Talk Radio UK, which fired its "shock jocks" for being shocking.

PETER BARNARD

CHEF OF THE YEAR

JEAN-PIERRE XIRADAKIS of *La Tupina* in Bordeaux has bloody-mindedly ignored every kitchen fashion of the past 15 or 20 years. He has dedicated himself to the conservation of southwestern cooking in general and Bordelais cooking in particular. I have no doubt that the English jobsworths who ply their trade in the name of Hygeia would take one look at his carnal forge and close him down. The French are wiser.

JONATHAN MEADES

SPECIAL AWARD

LONDON headmaster **Philip Lawrence** was brave enough to stand up against the encroachment of US-style gang violence in British schools. At best, his death will force the issue of the legality of knife-carrying. At the very least, it will make people appreciate their own families this Christmas.

GILES COREN

SALE

The Burberrys Sale starts Wednesday 27th December. Open 9am 7pm

LONDON: Haymarket; Regent Street; 2 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge.
SCOTLAND: Princes Street, Edinburgh.
Buchanan Street, Glasgow. Union Street, Aberdeen.
Halkett Place, Jersey
For mail order information please telephone 0171 930 7803.

Burberrys OF LONDON

SOME OF OUR EXCELLENT REDUCTIONS INCLUDE:	Original Price	Sale Price
Ladies Classic Raincoat	£395	£235
Ladies Trenchcoat	£495	£295
Mens Classic Raincoat	£395	£235
Mens Trenchcoat	£525	£295

Matthew Parris



■ The truth about the past is more vivid in a thousand little details than in any formal history

LOST, said the notice, "a large BLACK DOG, answering to the name of Sweep. Whoever will bring the same to Mr Maggs, stationer, or 44 Westbourne-terrace north, shall receive TWO POUNDS REWARD."

I read this, absorbed, at a little bookshop in the village of Cromford, Derbyshire. It was in Cromford, beside the River Derwent, that Richard Arkwright set up his first mill. The Industrial Revolution may be said to have started there.

Scarthin Books had asked me to call in for a couple of hours before Christmas to sign copies of my new book. The event coincided with the opening of their new in-house café, and so the occasion was a small celebration. To mark it, the proprietor, Dr Mitchell, had purchased an antique copy of *The Times*, the edition of Thursday, September 11, 1856.

I love small bookshops. They will have to fight hard for survival now that cost-cutting is allowed in the book trade, but I hope ther will always be a place for establishments like Dr Mitchell's. He will make an effort to find things, and keeps a good stock of second-hand books. He does a little publishing on the side, too. He has just published a guide to all the pipe-organs still in existence in all the churches and chapels along the Derwent Valley. He knows he may lose money on so specialised a venture, but believes such a work ought to exist. In fifty years it will be invaluable. I have not the least interest in wind organs but admire that spirit immensely, and so sat, sipping the cup of the fresh-ground coffee brought proudly to my table, pleased to be there, and hoping a few people would come along and buy my book.

But most of all I was fascinated by that *Times*.

"TO T.R.S. — T.R.S., who left Park-street on the 26th of July, is earnestly entreated to COME HOME, or to Write and let his parents know where he is. His absence causes them the deepest distress. He will be kindly received by all his friends and if he returns home at once an arrangement can be made for his going abroad." This, like the notification of the lost dog, Sweep, is on the front page of the newspaper.

Writing on this page, Alan Coren once referred to the discovery on Box Hill of an abandoned Saxon yew bow. It had snapped. No doubt it had been thrown down in disgust, covered by time, and had lain undisturbed for perhaps a millennium and a half. Coren said that this report caused him that neck-tingling sense of history which all the information in the world about great past events fails to excite. A peep back over the centuries to what was then the daily round can be breathtaking.

And so it was for me, with that *Times* of Thursday, 11 September 1856.

"LEFT his HOME — If the YOUTH, who left on Sunday morning last to go to Hampstead, will RETURN HOME at once all will be forgiven."

Why did he leave? Did he ever come back? Oh, how I long to know, how I long to be able to picture him. And wasn't £2 a big reward for Sweep? Why, too was a promise of "arrangements for his going abroad" an inducement to T.R.S. to come home? Had there been a family row about his wish to do so, causing him to storm off anyway?

When the decision was taken, more than a hundred years later, to place the classified columns of *The Times* on the inside pages, and promote the home and foreign news to the front, it was no doubt defended on the grounds that the world news was of more enduring interest.

But was it? Sipping my coffee I turned to the inside pages. There was an interminable report from Erzeroum about the "Evacuation of Kars" and an account of the French Emperor's visit to the Pyrenees. A census was being taken in Ireland, while "we yesterday learned, by letters from Bucharest, that Prince Ghika had departed from his resolution to maintain the status quo, as bequeated to him by Stirbey, and changed his Ministry".

> No doubt the world news was thought of more enduring interest — but is it?

Yes, yes. Fascinating, no doubt. But on the front page: "ELIZA WADE, who offered to go to India with a lady (who has mislaid her address) is informed, through this advertisement, that if she APPLIES immediately to Mr. W.W., chemist, Mortlake, the SITUATION is still OPEN."And a little white Skye terrier called Bobby, tipped with slate colour, has been lost and is desperately missed at 5, Marlborough Hill Gardens, St John's Wood.

And I know it mattered about the Kars, and the Emperor, and the census in Ireland, and if I cared enough I could find out how each of those stories ended. But I shall never know if Bobby was returned to Marlborough Hill Gardens.

Sweep is long dead. Did he die a stray? Did the lady who offered to accompany Eliza Wade ever contact her, and did they go to India? How did they like it there? Did T.R.S. ever go abroad, and did he prosper? Did the youth who went to Hampstead ever come home? Just for a moment, sipping my second Scarthins' coffee, and little caring whether anybody bought my book, I wanted to know these things more than I can say.

Labour should come clean about hunting

Those who hunt — or shoot, or fish — have a right to know what Labour intends, writes Nicholas Budgen

If you go to the Boxing Day meet today, you will want to forget politics. Sadly, though, hunting may be important at the next general election. There are about half a million people who support hunting by following the hounds. Their wish to continue to hunt raises issues of wider concern to the whole nation.

To this half-million, hunting is an integral part of life. I cannot tell you why. This morning as I pull my boots on, I shall reflect on how expensive, how irrational and yet how vital to me hunting has been for 50 years. So it will be for many people today. Most people who hunt are unpolitical. Being left alone in their sport is central to the way they live. To use an expression of Tony Blair's, "it is part of a deep sense of community".

Hunting is the activity around which much of the social life of the countryside is organised. For every day's hunting there are 20 or 30 ladies preparing teas and organising hunt fundraising activities. Politicians might remember that while ever fewer people now join the main political parties, hunting gains in numbers every year.

For these people, hunting is the key issue. If they are reassured on this by Labour, they may go on to vote tactically or even to support Labour. In calling hunting people unpolitical, I do not mean they are uninterested in broad issues or do not vote. Since hunting is an activity for all sections of the community, some of them are much more likely to vote Labour than people, say, who play polo.

There are not many people who are strongly opposed to hunting. It is true that many feel as I feel about smoking: they do not like it, but they don't want to stop others enjoying their disgusting habit. The exception to this general rule are the hunt saboteurs. They are very few in number, but very determined. The less dedicated of them have diminished in numbers and effectiveness in the past two hunting seasons.

Police certainly now have more powers to deal with saboteurs. But I suspect also that for some radicals, sabotaging hunting was a way of expressing disagreement with the then dominant and all-powerful Tories under Margaret Thatcher. They may not feel quite so oppressed now.

However, serious saboteurs vote Labour and always will. Labour's approach to field sports is unfortunate, and the half-million people who support hunting deserve a more honest explanation. If this interest group is conned, then there is a risk that another million people — those who shoot — may also be conned; and then another three million — those who fish — may in their turn be conned.

The latest official Labour statement comes in a "consultation document" from April this year, which promises "a free vote in the House of Commons to ban hunting with hounds".

Under the heading "Enjoying the countryside", the document reads: "We support the work which is under way with national shooting and fishing groups to establish codes of best practice in both these sports. We recognise that shooting is often the most appropriate, humane and selective method of controlling pest species, as well as being integral to



The Duke of Beaufort's Hunt will be meeting today

gain management. We also acknowledge the contribution of carefully managed shooting to the conservation of wildlife habitat.

"One kind of countryside enjoyment Labour cannot endorse — hunting with hounds. A Labour government will make Parliamentary time available for a free vote on the abolition of fox-hunting, deer-hunting and hare-coursing with dogs."

If this means anything, it means that Labour will give government time to a Bill to abolish hunting. If such time is given, hunting will end. It will be the tyranny of the majority and a scandalous reversal of the conventions of Parliament.

But Labour's position is ambiguous. There is within the party a group called "Leave Country Sports Alone". This includes Melvyn Bragg, Lord Donoughue, Jeremy Isaacs and Sam McClusky. About 12 Labour MPs are also said to support the views of this group.

Their most effective speaker is Lady Mallelieu, QC. She is charming, forceful and witty. She is a Labour frontbench spokesman in the Lords for legal and home affairs. She is, or ought to be, as much bound by the conventions of her position as Clare Short was when she was forced to accept that she could not speak as a free spirit on drugs.

In July, I heard Lady Mallelieu speak in Worcestershire. The audience of hunting people wanted to believe her. She said that there was no commitment by Labour to give Parliamentary time for a Bill to stop hunting. If there is no commitment, the anti-hunting lobby has been conned; if there is a commitment, then Lady Mallelieu was behaving very badly. First, she was misrepresenting Labour policy to an audience which longed to be reassured. Second, she was as guilty as Clare Short of stating her own view and not that of the party. This is inconsistent with her frontbench position.

Parliamentary time is the key to all this. Does Labour draw a distinction between time for a vote and time for the whole Bill? It hardly matters what individual parliamentarians do or think about hunting. If a government respects the conventions of the House, no private member's Bill opposed by a substantial number can reach the statute book. They fall through opposition and lack of time, as Mr McFall's Bill failed recently. What we want to know is whether Labour would give government time to an anti-hunting Bill? If it would, the way of life, and the sense of community of much of our countryside is threatened.

The author is Conservative MP for Wolverhampton South-West.

Bread-and-butter truths

The Queen makes us believe that duty must overcome selfishness



Libby Purves

Bah, humbug. All right, I admit it: I had a dream, which lasted all the way to the lull in yesterday morning's festive racket when I sneaked away to write this. In my dream, a natty sports car sped up the winding roads to Sandringham in the clean empty dawn of Christmas Day; its solitary driver pausing only at South Mimms service area to stock up on presentation packs of horse-shaped chocolates and executive jigsaws. When at last it pulled up a long, long drive, a voice from the driving seat said: 'Er - Merry Christmas, OK?'

Pathetic, I know. Dickensian, even. I suppose I hoped for the Princess of Wales to have an overnight visitation by three ghosts led by Lord St John of Fawsley in a luminous periwig, and to wake on Christmas morning like Ebenezer Scrooge, hearing the bells and knowing that if the world is to make any progress you have to swallow your bile and forgive everybody who has cheated and insulted you. In the dream, her feminist analysis and therapy-speak gave way to the grim but bracing awareness that what the truly "strong" woman does at Christmas is to brave up and pull a cracker with relatives who drive her, at times quite literally, insane.

Just a dream; but luckily, it matters not a jot. I turned on the Queen's message at 9am on Radio 4 (so much more dignified than the televised version) and enjoyed the usual Christmas miracle. In an age of presentation and public relations, sound-bites and spin, the high, flat, plain delivery of the Queen falls like a blessed silence on the roaring, hooting motorway of the media. It is possible that over the years she has been urged to liven up her act; wisely, she hasn't. If there is a 'still small voice', this is what it sounds like: not low and thrilling but dispassionate, unaccented, verging on dull; a voice saying plain, true, unchanging things.

Hearing the Queen, all those chatterers — whether from the Dr Raj Persaud school of remote-control psychiatry or the stable of 'constitutional experts' with not a lot to say — who have waxed feverish about the whole Diana-Panorama-Charles-Camilla-Dimbleby-Soames-divorce imbroglio, were reminded how insignificant it really is against the wider picture of the world and even of the monarchy.

The gift of the royal broadcast is its reminder that she is not just the Queen of this week but of long years past and future: the heiress and ancestress of centuries. Fascinating though it is, the failed royal marriage is not even the most significant royal event of this year. That happened in the park during the VE ceremonies, when the country underwent an astonishing upsurge of genuine popular joy in Britishness and affection for the wartime generation; a moment when generations danced and cheered together as the monarch, beaming gloriously, pushed the laser button to illuminate the Telecom Tower. The Queen took palpable comfort and delight from the good-humoured roaring of the great crowd fifty years on; and spoke yesterday of pride also in the long-awaited tribute to the Far East veterans. Duty, endurance; these are her lifeblood.

Not only military duty. She spoke as usual of the work of ordinary, unpraised people; told us that peace is better than war, that making peace and healing war is hard work. Of course there was no mention of the coming divorce: what on earth is the relevance of cross, spoilt Charles and cross, troubled Diana, compared to the Burma veterans of yesterday, the Bosnia volunteers of today, and the Sister Ethel who patiently set out to teach the dispossessed children of South Africa under a spreading tree? Such people, said the Queen in her unemotional tones, are doing something, making things better. When her own family do anything as much worth talking about, then she may mention them on Christmas morning. Otherwise, not.

The point is not that it was a good performance by the Queen, but that it was no performance at all. She believes these things. Like her daughter, she values practical, reliable help above emotional gush; and knows that ordinary people's instincts for good do more than lavish celebrity gestures. She knows that, as George Eliot said, the fact that things do not go as badly as they might is due largely to those who 'live faithfully a hidden life'. The Queen may be herself immensely rich and privileged; she may be surrounded by some dangerously pompous and snobbish advisers and family members; but she knows what is what. And, on Christmas day, she says it. 'The work for peace is never-ending..it is achieved by quiet and determined effort...people who go quietly about their business in dangerous circumstances... with modesty and a sense of humour'.

The wonderful thing is that, while politicians writhe and posture and her own children scrabble for cheap PR points, the way the Queen's own eyes are fixed on the simple bread-and-butter truths of life draws a response directly from those ordinary quiet workers all over the world. She spoke of her recent meeting with war-zone volunteers; a few days before Christmas in the documentary about her doomed yacht Britannia, we saw her greeting President Mandela, Sister Ethel and the rest and also saw how the Royal Marines beat the retreat steadfastly in the pouring rain and the crew, tough-looking specimens with sobriquets like Red Hot Ricky and Swampy Marsh, polished day and night to keep the royal ship immaculate. They did it, as all our ceremonial rank and file do it, not for money or sycophancy. They do it because somehow, the conjuring-trick of monarchy makes it all hang together: spit-and-polish, duty and pride, history and hope, hidden lives and the idea that slowly, painfully, but surely the world will grow safer and Britain will help more than hinder.

It may be no more than an illusion. The Queen's words of peace may be followed by not only family acrimony but a collapse of goodwill in Belfast, Bethlehem, Bosnia, everywhere. But the point is that she believes, and on Christmas day makes us believe, that duty and altruism must in the end, overcome selfishness and chaos. Send her victorious.

Swansong?

A NEW problem to disturb the Boxing Day walks at Sandringham is flapping its way across the Atlantic. The Canadian city of Ottawa has decided it can no longer afford to keep the swans which were given to the city council by the Queen in 1967.

Every summer since then, the royal swans have thrived and multiplied, to glide majestically up and down Ottawa's waterways. But with recent budget cutbacks, the city council says it cannot justify the £15,000 needed annually to keep the birds and their decendants, which snuggle into a special heated home when the rivers freeze over in winter.

The council's switchboard has been jammed and its postbags are bulging. Rather than get rid of the swans, the councillors have decided to donate them to a zoo. Councillor Joan Wong, a hard old bird, says the outcry shows that people care more for birds than other human beings in need at Christmas. Another council source says: "They are inedible, so we have to find them a home. We need corporate sponsors."

But residents such as Nora Banford, 82, are appalled that the city can't find the cash. "It would be an insult to Her Majesty to get rid of the swans, after all the trouble this year with her terrible children."



Digging 'em out

● *New year celebrations will be starting late this year — one second late to be precise. According to the boffins at* New Scientist, *this will be to account for a slowdown in the Earth's rotation. One "leap" second will be added to the last minute of 1995.*

Last time

THE PRINCESS OF WALES would be wise not to dwell on the fate of the wife in the most recent divorce among her husband's forebears. They were the parents of Prince Albert, Duke Ernst of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, and Luise of Gotha.

King Leopold of the Belgians said that Luise, a great beauty, had been corrupted by Persian poetry when she took a lover.

Duke Ernst, himself something of a reprobate, banished his wife and her paramour to Paris, and she never saw her two sons again.

Sharp Claus

THE SCARLET FACE of the film director Ken Russell flushed an angry shade of purple on his recent trip to icy wastes for a photo-opportunity with Santa Claus. With his wife Hetty and two-year-old son, Rex, he travelled to Lapland as a guest of the ghastly glossy, *Hello!*

Despite the cheery pictures of snowbound frolics, his family endured "a Christmas lunch prepared over a fire", which turned out to be tinned soup, a Spam roll and pancakes served on plastic plates. And the reindeer farm consisted of six beasts giving 30-second rides.

Off and on

AS THE Princess of Wales digested the Queen's request for a divorce, her stepbrother Henry Legge was getting spliced. On Thursday last week, at the Grosvenor Chapel in London, he married Cressida Hogg, in the presence of about 40 relatives, including his mother, the former Raine Spencer, and Dame Barbara Cartland.

"The bride carried a little white muff," says Dame Barbara. "And I wouldn't have minded one myself because it was so cold. I should have worn my fur but I'm too afraid to these days," she says, referring to the anti-fur lobby. The couple had a party at Syon Lodge, home of the Duke of Northumberland. "I didn't go to that," admits the doughty Dame, "I'm too old." Never.

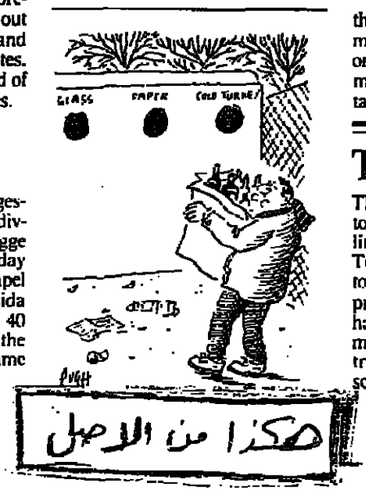
Leadership

WE ARE lucky to have Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Walker, the new commander of international forces in Bosnia. But for a disagreement with the headteacher at the school where he taught as a young man, he might even now still be organising games of rugger on muddy prep-school playing fields.

Sir Michael is said to have been an inspirational teacher at Town Close School in Norwich, forever taking his young charges on character-building expeditions.

However, difficulties arose with the headmaster, described by one who knew him as "a rather brutal Captain Mainwaring type", who said that the trips were costing the school too much in petrol.

"One day Walker got fed up with this and went to his local recruitment office and joined up," says one close to his Royal Anglian Regiment. The rest, as they say, is military history.



Testing time

THE ENGLAND cricket team had to draw stumps on Christmas jollities yesterday. With the fourth Test starting in Port Elizabeth today, they had to put in some hard practice in the nets after the deluge had washed out their warm-up match against a student XI. The traditional fancy dress party was scrapped.



Bunnyboy Botham

Last year, as the series against Australia descended into pantomime, Michael Atherton dressed up as Robin Hood, Graham Gooch was a snarling Captain Hook and Phil Tufnell came as The Riddler, with his wife Lisa as Catwoman.

Ian Botham once bounced into the party as a bunny, but a later appearance as Guy the Gorilla gave him the nickname which stuck.

P·H·S

FISH AND FOLLY

Empty nets, empty policies and empty 'European' seas

The turkey was carved joyfully across Britain yesterday, and eaten with gusto. Today is a good day to talk, less festively, about fish. The various ministers for fisheries of the European Union agreed on Friday to a carve-up of the union's fish resources: a "total allowable catch" was determined for 1996, as well as next year's quotas for particular types of fish for individual countries. In the European manner of doing business, this emotive matter was concluded merely nine days before the year ends. If the directors of a private enterprise were to take their decisions in this way — on the sharp edge of the chronological precipice, as it were — the shareholders would rightly bay for blood. The EU, however, is not a private enterprise: and its citizens, as much in the question of fisheries as in many other matters, appear increasingly to be no more than bewildered bystanders.

Emma Bonino, the EU Fisheries Commissioner, had hoped to slash the total allowable catch by 50 per cent: drastic though that may seem, her scientists had concluded that nothing less would do if Europe's depleted stocks were ever to recover their strength. Yet in the souk-like atmosphere at Friday's meeting, member states haggled, cajoled, bullied and clawed back thousands of tonnes of fish that their fleets had looked set to lose. Ministers seemed to have one aim only: to avoid, or to reduce the intensity of, cuts in quotas recommended by Signora Bonino. The needs of conservation were caught in the net of short-term "national interest" — of France, of Spain, of The Netherlands. And yes, of Britain too.

Signora Bonino said after the conclusion of business that she would have preferred more courageous action to protect fish stocks. *The Times*, too, would have preferred that. Instead, the EU must once again prepare to live with an irresponsible fudge. At the time of the fisheries crisis between Canada and Spain — fought out in March and April of this year — we argued that the EU's common fisheries policy (CFP) was decadent and wasteful, and that it cried out for radical, top-to-bottom overhaul. That view remains not merely unchanged after Friday's meeting, but greatly strengthened.

The CFP is responsible for an annual subsidy of $580 million to Europe's bloated fishing fleets: this subsidy, to which the British taxpayer contributes, serves neither the interests of this country nor the wider global interest in conservation. By this policy, the EU seeks irrationally to reconcile the protection of fish stocks with support for the short-term economic interests of its fishermen. Why cannot these subsidies — which now serve only to deplete dwindling stocks still further — be channelled into the redevelopment of fishing communities? Is it not folly to pay to keep boats afloat when the EU needs, at a conservative estimate, to reduce its fleet to a quarter of its current size? The better way would surely have been to permit larger cuts in quotas, and for redirected subsidies to have softened the blow dealt to fishermen put out of work.

No less pressing is the question of "discards" at sea: fish are thrown back at present if they are undersized, which only distorts the figures on the depletion of stocks. The admirable Norwegian practice, enforced by Oslo in the Barents Sea, must be emulated at once by the EU: discarding of undersized fish must be banned. This would reduce the use of illegal nets and — as important — would yield more accurate calculations of existing fish stocks. Quotas would then have to be accounted in terms of fish caught, not in terms of fish "landed", as is currently the case.

There have been calls — from some on the Tory Right and from MPs who represent fishing constituencies — for Britain to pull out of the CFP. Attractive though life without the CFP might be, the option is not readily available so long as the country remains a member of the EU. The answer to our present problems lies more immediately in a reform of the policies which determine our fishing arrangements. That reform must be profound and immediate. We do want future generations to eat fish, do we not?

BULLISH BLAIR

If Tony Blair is sometimes criticised for being too inflexible, if his enemies describe him as acting like a bull in a china shop, blame the stars. On Saturday, in the first of 12 festive leaders on the signs of the zodiac, we considered the likely fate of the Prime Minister — an Aries — over the next year. But what of the man who wants to succeed him? Born on May 5, Mr Blair is a Taurean: determined, stubborn, slow to anger but fierce once roused. If his political enemies — on both sides of the House — want clues to the Labour leader's personality, they could do worse than examine the position of the planets at his birth.

A Taurean will not always have new ideas of his own. But he will recognise good ideas in others and then stop at nothing to put them into practice. He is unlikely to change his mind — so Labour's left wing will simply have to learn to live with him. Taureans work hard and thrive in positions of responsibility. A warning for the Conservatives: they do not like taking unnecessary risks.

According to the astrologists, 1995 was a year of great psychological progress for Taureans, "a year for breaking addictions, getting at the root of psychological problems and otherwise eliminating the unnecessary from your life and character". Yes, Clause Four simply had to go. But what of 1996?

Next year promises more money, recognition, self-esteem and lucky breaks. Jupiter's move into Capricorn is no less than a cosmic holiday for Taureans. And Uranus's move into Aquarius, which has tremendous implications for the world as a whole, has special meaning for Mr Blair. This movement brings "accelerated change, modernism and avant-gardism to the world". Read what you like into the stars, but this sounds uncannily like a Labour general election victory: particularly when it is followed by the prediction that Taureans will move house, not from their own personal desires, but as a result of sudden career changes. Mr Blair, like other Taureans, will be weeding out false friends from true, a trend that has apparently been keeping him busy for some years. Those former Conservatives who want to jump ship in time for a cosy quango chairmanship under Labour may find that their ruse has been spotted.

Others who continue to harbour strong doubts about Labour's fiscal responsibility have good astrological reasons for doing so. In 1996, Taureans have greater access to other people's money. But if they overdo it they run the risk of rampant debt. Time for the IMF again?

Next month promises little respite from the Government's woes. For Mr Blair, major changes are due in his career. Barriers to progress fall suddenly. Career fantasies are being fulfilled this month and for years to come. February and March continue in the same vein — but the Tories might be able to exploit the emergence of the Labour leader's secret enemies in April.

Mr Blair is advised to wind down from work in June, July and August. But then so does everyone else. It is the autumn that looks most dangerous for John Major. Towards the end of September, Taureans such as Mr Blair will see the fragility of governments and bureaucracies — solid though they have always seemed to be. And October, when some have forecast an election, will be the most tumultuous month.

Then, Taureans become more socially-conscious, more other-orientated and more dependent on the goodwill of others. Voters, perhaps? It sounds like it: "Goals are being achieved through other people now, so treat them right." Not only is Mr Blair predicted to move house in October, but a powerful solar eclipse on the 12th signals a change of job or career. It should, write astrologers with some understatement, "be seen as a positive step forward".

SISTER ETHEL



The volunteers of the world spread the Christmas message best

Her modesty, her selflessness and her Christian spirit were revealed to the nation yesterday. Her tirelessness, her way with children and her humility have also earned our admiration. Sister Ethel Normoyle was relatively unknown in Britain until the Queen chose to highlight her work and her achievements in the royal message to the nation on Christmas Day. But the community in which this Irish nun — of the Little Company of Mary — works and lives, pays her daily a debt of gratitude and love.

Sister Ethel has dedicated her life to the people of a black township near Port Elizabeth, the city where England's Test match against South Africa begins today. Viewers of the cricket, however, will see nothing of Sister Ethel's part of town: impoverished, overcrowded and unhealthy. Yet the Queen, on her visit to South Africa in March, travelled to the poor township — to see for herself the work of this compassionate nun.

In her broadcast yesterday, the Queen was moving in her praise for Sister Ethel and spoke of the "glowing example of how the inspiration and energy of one person can benefit thousands of others". The traditional Christmas message, said the Queen, was spread most eloquently by "the volunteers and the Sister Ethels of this world".

The Queen chose wisely her moment to acknowledge the sacrifice of those who work and care for others — in Britain as much as in countries overseas — with no thought of reward or their own welfare. Let it be said on this day after Christmas that among the truest Christians are those who labour quietly, beyond the public gaze. They measure their success not in terms of recognition and applause — however well deserved — but in the currency of the happiness and relief they bring to the lives of the poor.

Such people work for peace; they work for literacy; they work for the health of the communities in whose midst they live. They work also for the spiritual welfare of their societies, both natural and adoptive. Sister Ethel's quiet nobility is an example to us all. We wish her strength and success, and fulfilment of the desire she expressed yesterday to be "part of the lives of people in the township for as long as I can be".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Divorce as cause of homelessness

From the National Director, Christian Voice

Sir, In the debate on the growing incidence of homelessness, especially amongst the young, the Opposition, the Government, Centrepoint and the Princess of Wales [see letters, December 9, 14] all appear to me to be addressing the symptoms. Is this issue simply one of financial provision, with no further moral dimension?

Between 1961 and 1993, the population of Great Britain grew by 10 per cent. In the same period, the number of households grew by 41 per cent, and households of only one person from 2,268,000 to 6,183,000. The *Social Trends* publication shows that those living in temporary accommodation went up from 11,100 households in 1983 to 58,400 in 1993.

This increase in homelessness appears to be almost totally due to the breakdown of the family, as shown by the number of children on the streets who report leaving home after the introduction of a new adult male — usually mother's "boyfriend".

The Government and Opposition may squabble about benefits and "cheap affordable housing" as much as they like. Yet both, as if in another world, appear bent on legislation which will introduce divorce on demand and break up yet more families.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN GREEN,
National Director,
Christian Voice,
PO Box 526, Sutton, Surrey.
December 22.

Fishing agreement

From Sir Anthony Meyer

Sir, The agreement reached by the European Fisheries Ministers [report, December 23] will no doubt be welcomed. It amounts, of course, to a refusal by governments to face their national fishing industries with the unpopular decisions required to conserve fish stocks for future generations.

Could there be a clearer illustration of the need for a body such as the European Commission to champion the general and the long-term interest, and of the folly of attempting to run the European Union on the sole basis of inter-governmental co-operation?

I am etc,
ANTHONY MEYER
(Policy Director, European Movement),
9 Cottage Place, SW3.
December 22.

From Professor John Shepherd

Sir, It is the depleted state of our fish stocks which has been at the root of Britain's dispute with her European partners over total allowable catches and fish quotas.

If the best scientific evidence shows that the stocks are over-exploited, recommendations for cuts in fishing effort and catches should come as no surprise: the only way to conserve fish is to kill fewer of them — and that means smaller catches — until the stocks have recovered.

If too many fishing boats are chasing too few fish, then a decommissioning programme is inescapable, but that will take a long time to work. A more immediate way to square the fishermen's short-term interests (higher allowable catches next year) with their long-term interests (more fish in the sea in the future) is desperately needed.

The proposed cuts were based firmly on internationally agreed scientific assessments, and in most cases reflected only two processes: tracking the natural (and man-made) variations in the size of the stocks, and reducing the proportion of stocks taken by 10 or 20 per cent from their present excessive levels (about 70 per cent in some cases).

These processes can and do interact to give rather sharp reductions for some stocks, in some years; but if the stock has declined, trying to catch the same tonnage as last year can only drive exploitation rates up, and the stocks down even further.

Those concerned for the future of our fisheries must therefore regret the high quota levels set at Brussels today. These will be bad for the fish — and, in the long run, bad for the fishermen, too.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SHEPHERD, Director,
Southampton Oceanography Centre,
Empress Dock,
Southampton, Hampshire.
December 22.

Stars crossed

From Mr Steven Carr

Sir, Ms von Strunckel (interview, December 22) accuses an astronomer of making ill-judged comments about astrology and then, cheekily, uses Pluto in her forecasts. It was astronomers, not astrologers, who discovered Pluto. For thousands of years astrologers never realised their forecasts were coming out wrong because they were not taking Pluto into account.

Yours sincerely,
STEVEN CARR,
3 Bowness Avenue, Prenton,
Birkenhead, Merseyside.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Lottery contract under scrutiny

From Viscount Astor

Sir, It is clear from Mr Richard Branson's letter (December 21) why he failed to win the contract to operate the National Lottery.

He states that not only would he have given all the profit to charity, but also that this would have encouraged people to buy more tickets. This suggests to me that he failed to study carefully the National Lottery Act (1993), and also the assurances given by the Government in both Houses during its passage.

Because as a result of concerns expressed on all sides in both Houses on the effect of the proposed lottery on charitable giving the Government agreed that the lottery should not be allowed to market itself as a way of making a charitable donation.

The reason to buy a lottery ticket is to win a prize, and perhaps even the jackpot. It is an advantage that in this country the five distributing bodies each collect a percentage that in most EU countries would go straight to the Treasury.

The Branson formula would have muddled the clear divide between buying a lottery ticket and giving to charity and, in my view, could have done enormous harm to charitable giving by the people of this country.

Yours etc,
ASTOR
(Department of National Heritage, 1991-92 and 1994-95),
House of Lords.
December 21.

From Mr Bryan Firth

Sir, Your letters today concerning Oflot leave many questions unanswered. It would be appropriate if the inquiry to be headed by Anne Rafferty, QC, (report, December 21), considered the following points in public, in addition to Mr Branson's allegations of attempted bribery.

Why did Peter Davis, an experienced manager, lay himself open to being compromised by accepting favours from GTech, something even junior managers would regard as potentially hazardous?

Why did Mr Davis apparently ignore the likely extra benefits of Richard Branson's "profits for charity" bid? It would seem, in view of Branson's abilities and achievements, he would have been an ideal choice.

As Sir Robert Calderwood asks in his letter, why did Mr Davis not publicly declare or disqualify himself from awarding the contract to Camelot because of his relationship with individuals within GTech?

Airing the wider implications of Oflot's actions in public should go a long way to easing growing public anxiety.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN FIRTH,
Firth & Associates Ltd,
67 High Street,
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.
December 21.

From Mr M. J. W. Anstey

Sir, It takes just a few free flights to raise a clamour by politicians for an inquiry into the office of Oflot. What does it take for the Government to secure an inquiry into the fiasco at Lloyd's?

Yours faithfully,
M. J. W. ANSTEY (Chairman),
Lloyd's Names Information Network,
The Annexe,
Grosvenor Hall, Bolnore Road,
Haywards Heath, Sussex.

Paintings restored

From Mr Julian Pritchard

Sir, Two of your correspondents have drawn attention to specific losses in pictures cleaned for the Vermeer exhibition in Washington (letters, December 6, 18). My lament is more general. I have not seen the exhibition, but the plates in the catalogue are quite enough to make one deplore the whole enterprise.

In painting after painting the magic of Vermeer's modelling by light is replaced with weak, smeary fudges without sparkle or volume. Why were any of these paintings interfered with? Make Vermeer's surfaces look painted, and his transcendence of painting, the illusion of reality, is gone.

Too many paintings, it seems to me, are allowed to be cleaned institutionally without question (often for exhibition) by people who consider their work in technical terms only; who quite obviously do not understand what needs to be "conserved"; and who almost never leave things alone.

Masaccio, Michelangelo, Titian, Veronese, Vermeer, Turner ... what will become of Ernst Gombrich's "story of art" if we go on ruining the masterpieces of our greatest geniuses? A moratorium on cleaning is now an urgent necessity.

Yours sincerely,
J. P. PRITCHARD,
42 Bradmore Park Road, W6.

Paintings in hiding

From Mr Michael Moynihan

Sir, In writing of the Welsh slate mine where the National Gallery's paintings were preserved during the Second World War, Isabel Carlisle suggests that it would be fascinating to know which of these paintings were among Hitler's choices for the Führer museum that he planned for Linz ("How the gallery went to war", Arts, December 15).

In October 1944, in a group of other war correspondents, I visited the Dutch opposite number, deep in a limestone hillside outside Maastricht, where the wonder was that not one from a priceless collection of 800 Old Masters and a few "moderns" had gone missing.

In my diary for the day in question I recorded that

the pictures had first been buried in sand dunes, removed here in 1942 for protection from Allied bombing.
They were brought by special train and the Germans could not be kept in ignorance of the hide-out. In fact a number of officers had been to see them — there had been no attempt at looting.

Was Hitler waiting for victory to take his pick?

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL MOYNIHAN,
Nuthatch,
Fletcher Close, North Mundham,
Chichester, West Sussex.
December 16.

Derwent water

From Dr Robin Pellew and Mr Stephen Warburton

Sir, You reported (December 18) that in its continuing quest for more supplies Yorkshire Water is seeking further drought orders for increased abstraction from Yorkshire rivers.

It intends to advertise its application for the orders with a public consultation of just ten days, overlapping with the holiday period.

Two of the company's targets are the River Derwent, a site of special scientific interest for most of its length, and the internationally important lower Derwent Valley, one of England's last great wetlands.

The latter's rare wildflower meadows and rich birdlife depend on very specific conditions, leaving them highly vulnerable to any changes in the water regime. To threaten a site of such international conservation significance to meet short-term needs compounds a failure in forward planning with a clear disregard for wildlife.

Such an insensitive application will also place the Secretary of State for the Environment in the invidious position of having to determine it against the backdrop of shouldering his obligation to the international community to protect the lower Derwent Valley from the risks of damage and deterioration.

Yours sincerely,
ROBIN PELLEW
(Director, WWF-UK),
STEPHEN WARBURTON
(Conservation Manager, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust),
World Wide Fund for Nature UK,
Panda House, Weyside Park,
Catteshall Lane, Godalming, Surrey.

Tories in Epping

From Mrs Di Collins

Sir, Your report of December 19 implies strongly that Eleanor Laing has been selected as prospective Tory candidate for Epping Forest on the grounds that she is a woman. This is not the case.

Epping Forest has prided itself on having been through a very democratic selection process. We certainly were not "briefed from Central Office" or "sold the merits" of a woman candidate. We are perfectly capable of choosing our own candidate.

This we did, with the full involvement of members, and the final selection on December 15, before an audience of some 200 members, was a credit to the party. The candidates were thoroughly grilled with sensible political questions and Mrs Laing was selected on the first ballot, entirely on merit.

Yours faithfully,
DI COLLINS
(Chairman),
Epping Forest Conservative Association,
Thatcher House,
4 Meadow Road, Loughton, Essex.
December 19.

Causes of 'staggers'

From Mr Graham C. Lewis

Sir, Another cause of "staggers" in grazing animals, in addition to that described by Miss Wright (letter, December 15), is alkaloid toxicosis resulting from the consumption of grass infected with endophytic fungi.

Infected plants are common and widespread in old pastures, and probably were more abundant before the Second World War, during which many old pastures were ploughed in order to grow food crops. The alkaloid affects the animal's neuromuscular system, causing loss of co-ordination of the limbs and hence the staggering.

Affected animals usually recover quickly once removed from infected pasture. Alkaloid levels in endophyte-infected plants are increased during periods of hot, dry weather, and one of the lesser known results of this summer's heatwave was a marked increase in the number of cases of staggers across the country.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM LEWIS,
Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research,
North Wyke Research Station,
Okehampton, Devon.

Fortifying the sound of music

From Mr Richard Fisher

Sir, The introduction by ENO of amplification for its production of *La Belle Vivette* at the London Coliseum is a sad admission of failure for a company whose performances of operetta used to be legendary (letter, December 21).

After a performance of *Iolanthe* in Hamburg in the 1960s, Leopold Ludwig, the music director there, expressed his admiration for a level of performance in operetta then unusual in Germany, while the audiences' response in even the largest theatres in Munich and Berlin showed that they could hear, and understand, everything without the least difficulty.

When it moved to the Coliseum the company continued the tradition with many performances of *The Merry Widow*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Patience*, *Iolanthe*, *La Belle Hélène* and, above all, *Orpheus in the Underworld*, which was revived time after time by public demand. All these were performed with enormous success without a trace of amplification.

There must be something wrong if an audience cannot understand what is going on without it.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD FISHER
(Director of Opera Planning, Sadler's Wells, 1969-73),
1 Middle Lane, N8.
December 21.

Dinner duties

From Mr Brian North Lee

Sir, Only people prepared to put something in socially should accept supper invitations (Mary Killen, "The death of the dinner party", December 18).

Marked lateness is no virtue, meeting new people can be a blessing, and how far you are prepared to travel depends on your regard for your hostess or host. The excising of bores is their responsibility, the toleration of them may be yours as their friends. Being too lazy to cook yourself is no excuse for accepting others' hospitality.

Guests who want only to meet the same folk, whose opinions and stories are bound to pall in the long run, are unworthy of the hospitality they are offered.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN NORTH LEE,
32 Barrowgate Road, W4.
December 18.

From Mrs Celia Jenkins

Sir, Poor Mary Killen! Bread may be all that is on her post-prosperity 1990s dinner-party menu in London, but I can assure her that cake is still on offer in the provinces. We thirty-somethings in the sticks generally find a warm welcome, good food and meeting new people preferable to TV's current fare.

Yours faithfully,
CELIA JENKINS,
The Dongray,
Bangor on Dee, Wrexham, Clwyd.
December 20.

From Mr Paul Disley-Tindell

Sir, Was Mary Killen in a dentist's surgery when she was "flicking through a 1949 issue of *American Vogue*"? I think we should be told.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL DISLEY-TINDELL,
51 Ramsden Road, SW12.
December 18.

Safety on the road

From Mr Michael Baumber

Sir, During 30 years' service, both as a police advanced driver and involved in planning and operation of traffic policing policy, I remember most the observation: "Speed does not cause accidents; people cause accidents."

Chief Inspector McElroy ("Thirty years since Britain slammed on the brakes", December 22) rightly says: "Speed must be appropriate to conditions." That is why the police have been calling for a more comprehensive driving test for so many years.

How can people be expected to cope with road, traffic and weather conditions if they are not able to drive properly? Would we allow an airline pilot to take us across the world if he or she had only taxied the aircraft around the perimeter at Heathrow?

Incidentally, the graphic with your report is not quite correct: the speed limit on motorways and dual carriageways is 70 mph. Single carriageway roads, unless otherwise restricted, have a 60 mph limit.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BAUMBER,
Warwick Cottage,
Ufford, Stamford, Lincolnshire.

Brain train

From Mr M. J. Ansell

Sir, Mr Denis Norden's television programme, *It'll be Alright on the Night*, has been proved to dull the mind (report, December 19).

It may be time to introduce a system of star ratings for television programmes to indicate their degree of mind-numbingness.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL J. ANSELL,
3 Ashley Close,
Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.
December 19.

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM

December 24: A Service of Lessons and Carols was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning.

SANDRINGHAM

December 25: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning.

Birthdays today

Professor D.H. Barlow, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 46; Captain George W. Burnet, Lord Lieutenant of Midlothian, 68; Professor Sir Colin Campbell, Vice-Chancellor, Nottingham University, 51; Sir Alastair Dunnett, former chairman, Thomson Scottish Petroleum, 87; Baroness Faithfull, 85; Sir Christopher Hewetson, former president, Law Society, 66; Mr Rohan Kanhai, cricketer, 60; Mr Eric Kinder, chairman, Smith and Nephew, 68; Professor Thea King, clarinettist, 70; Miss Jane Lapotaire, actress, 51; Mr David Perry, chairman, John *Waddington*, 58; Mr *Denis* Quilley, actor, 68; Mr Mark Robinson, MP, 49; Miss Anna Scher, founder, Anna Scher Theatre, 51.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Thomas Gray, poet, London, 1716; Lord George Gordon, Protestant agitator, London, 1751; Charles Babbage, pioneer of calculating machines, Totnes, 1792; Dion Boucicault, actor and dramatist, Dublin, 1822; Henry Miller, novelist, New York, 1891; Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of the People's Republic of China 1949-59, Shaoshan, Hunan province, 1893; Victor Hely-Hutchinson, composer, Cape Town, 1901.

DEATHS: Claude Helvetius, philosopher, Voré, 1771; John Fothergill, physician, London, 1780; John Wilkes, political reformer, London, 1797; Heinrich Schliemann, archaeologist, Naples, 1890; Roger Keyes, Baron Keyes, Admiral of the Fleet, Buckingham, 1945; James Stephens, novelist and poet, London, 1950; Harry S. Truman, 33rd American President 1945-53, Kansas City, 1972; Sir Lennox Berkeley, composer, 1989.

Marie and Pierre Curie discovered radium while experimenting with pitchblende, 1898.

The German battleship *Scharnhorst* was sunk by the Royal Navy, 1943.

JULIAN HERBERT



Dip in temperature: bathers brave the cold to take the traditional Christmas Day swim in Hyde Park, London

Latest wills

Dr Charles William **Walker**, of Tupsley, Hereford, former consultant physician to the Hereford Group of Hospitals, left estate valued at £573,229 net.

He left £1,000 to the Hereford and Radnorshire Nature Trust, and £500 to St Peter's Church, Hereford.

Mr Edgar Clement **Wharton-Tigar**, of London W8, the mining company executive, wartime SOE agent, and cartophilist, left estate valued at £2,046,121 net.

He left his collection of cigarette and trade cards to the British Museum, to be called "The Edward Wharton-Tigar Collection", access to be given to responsible members of the public.

Other estates include (net before tax)

Mrs Diana Elizabeth Gordon **How**, of Cadeleigh, Devon £1,163,097

Dorothy Rose, Lady **Layton**, of Richmond, Surrey £533,423

Mr Eric Hepworth **Shacklock**, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire £806,000

Mrs Jean Elizabeth **Walker**, of Bournemouth, Dorset £530,106

Miss Gladys May **Yates**, of Ashbourne, Derbyshire... £678,933

Forthcoming marriage

Mr S. Marché
and Miss C.L. Mellor

The engagement is announced between Stephane, son of the late Mr Claude Marché and of Mme Christiane Bezagu, of Limoges, France, and Claire Louise, elder daughter of Mr R. Mellor and the late Mrs Josephine Anne Mellor, of Quinton, Birmingham.

Bones cast doubt on 'African Eve' theory

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTIFIC dating of ancient remains from the former Yugoslavia suggests that anatomically modern human beings may have appeared in Europe as far back as 130,000 years ago. This is as early as the finds from South Africa which have been claimed to support an "African Eve" hypothesis for the origins of *Homo sapiens sapiens*.

More than 850 bones from several hominids identified as Neanderthals were recovered from the Krapina cave, near Zagreb in Croatia, early this century, and have rested in the natural history museum in Zagreb ever since. Many of the bones were found broken, scratched, and mixed with animal remains: it was suggested that the humans had been eaten by their compatriots, although recent research indicates that the defleshing was done prior to formal burial.

The date of Krapina was uncertain, but now anthropologists from McMaster University in Canada have dated the hominids to around 130,000 years ago, using electron-spin resonance and uranium-series dating on their teeth. Enamel and dentine gave compatible results, showing that the bones were deposited in the cave during the last inter-glacial period.

One striking skull was of a child of six to eight years of age. "Some aspects group it with other juvenile Neanderthals, but its more pentagonal shape in rear view and some other characteristics approach the conditions of early modern humans," the investigators note in *Nature* (Vol.378:24).

Another skull fragment from the same layer lacks a crucial Neanderthal trait, suggesting that these individuals may be transitional to modern hominids.

According to the "African Eve" thesis, Neanderthals were a dead-end of evolution, with modern humans emerging in sub-Saharan Africa and moving north into Europe comparatively late in the Ice Age. The Krapina child's skull "is curious and difficult to explain in a European context at that date", said Dr Chris Stringer of the Natural History Museum in London, a strong proponent of the African model.

"It would have to be interpreted as modern-looking either because it was a young child with a more generalised cranial morphology, looking less Neanderthal, or — less likely — a genuine early modern human," Dr Stringer said.

He points out that the later hominids from Croatia "were definitely Neanderthals, hence there was no regional continuity with modern humans".

Proponents of a multi-regional model for modern human origins, who see us emerging from earlier peoples in Africa, Asia, and Europe, will however take fresh heart from the Krapina dates: although the Africanists are ahead on points so far, the contest looks as though there are several more rounds to go.

In the hoofprints of ancient history

SWEDISH police, equine veterinarians and riding instructors have been enlisted by archaeologists investigating a Bronze Age settlement near Stockholm (Norman Hammond writes). Forensic study of hundreds of hoofprints has given the earliest direct evidence for the use of horses in construction work 3,000 years ago.

Excavations in advance of railway construction at Ullunda, on an old shoreline about 35 miles northwest of Stockholm, revealed a longhouse and burial mounds dated to 1400-1200 BC. In the clay, some 450 horses' hoofprints were preserved. The Stockholm police unit specialising in scene-of-crime evidence was enlisted to make plaster and rubber casts. Examination of these by equine specialists revealed the presence of two or three unshod horses, including a large foal or colt.

Neil Price of Arkeologikonsult said: "It seems likely the horses were used to transport gravel: the Ullunda hoofprints are the earliest direct evidence from Scandinavia for this kind of use of horses — their employment for simple physical labour. Horses have been previously interpreted as symbols of high status in the Bronze Age, perhaps only used for riding or display."

Source: *PAST (Newsletter of the Prehistoric Society)* No 20: 10-12

Inns of Court awards

Inner Temple

Princess Royal Scholarships, Major Scholarships and Bursaries 1995:

Princess Royal Scholarships, £10,000:

C Bingham, BA, Balliol, Oxford; A Day, BA, Clare, Cambridge; H Hill, BA, Emmanuel, Cambridge; J Smyth, King's Coll London; A Thomas, Balliol, Oxford.

Major Scholarships, £8,500:

E Berridge, Emmanuel, Cambridge; A Buckland, LLB, Leicester; P Cowan, University Coll, Durham; S-J Davies, BA, Clare, Cambridge; M Diggle, LLB, Glamorgan; I Hope, BA, Aberystwyth; J Middleton, BSc, Surrey, and LLM, University Coll, London; J Miles, Nottingham; T Mitcheson, BA, Trinity, Cambridge; J Morgan, Jesus, Cambridge; A Oakes, BA, Durham; C Packman, BA, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford; P Pasoulides, MA, St Andrews; E Paton, BA, and BCL, New Coll, Oxford; G Richardson, Merton, Oxford; P Tanner, BA, Oriel, Oxford.

Bursaries

£4,000, S A Amaouche, King's Coll, London; £6,000, B Banga, St John's, Cambridge; £2,000, Z Bredemear, LLB, Reading; £5,000, N Burrows, BA, St Andrews; £4,000, J Colgan, Queens; £2,000, N Jeudwine-Barnes, Westminster; £6,000, B Kang, LLB, LSE; £4,000, M Khawar, BA, Mansfield, Oxford; £2,000, J King, Southampton; £2,000, C Knotts, Birmingham; £4,000, P Maggs, BA, Exeter; £6,000, C McCloskey, LLB, North London; £2,000, P McTigue, BA, Sussex; £6,000, N Mian, BA, Oxford Brookes; £3,000, P Mitchell, King's Coll, London; £6,000, S Morley, Westminster; £3,000, P Osborne, LLB, Queen Mary and Westfield, London; £4,000, E O'Shea, BA, Ireland U, and BA Sidney Sussex, Cambridge; £6,000, S Pengelly, BA, St Peter's, Oxford, and CPE, London Guildhall; £4,000, S Sperry, BSc, Southampton; £5,000, R Taylor, Reading; £6,000, V Thomas, Reading; £4,000, A Tomlin LLB, Warwick; £4,000, J Woodward, Leicester.

CPE awards 1995

£2,500, S Ahmed, BA, Portsmouth and MSC, Manchester; £2,500, D Craig, BSC Manchester and MA, Queen's, Cambridge; £2,500, H Greatorex, MSc Edinburgh; £8,500, J Greenhill, BA, Peterhouse, Cambridge; £5,000, S Halsall BSc, King's, Cambridge; £6,000 R Harrap, BA, University Coll, London; £8,500, T Houghton, BA, Exeter, Oxford; £3,000 N Jeremiah BA, Gonville & Caius, Cambridge; £6,000, B Leach, BA, Trinity, Cambridge; £2,500, S Leesing, BA, York; £3,000, M McLeish, BA, and D Phil, Magdalen, Oxford; City University Scholarship, S Pertwee, BA, Bristol; £8,500, L Seymour, BA, Exeter, Oxford; £8,500, S Spear, BA, St Hilda's, Oxford; £2,500 E Tyler, BA, York.

Gray's Inn Senior Scholarships and Awards 1995:

Arden Scholarship: A C Diamond, King's, Cambridge; Atkin Scholarship, J Taylor, Aberystwyth; Mould Scholarship: J D'Arcy Benson, St Catherine's, Oxford; Reid Scholarship: A E Dean, Gonville & Caius, Cambridge.

Senior awards (for unfunded pupillages):

Malcolm Hilbery Award: M Balysz, Central England.

Lionel Blundell Awards: C Phillips, Aberystwyth; C Michalos, Birmingham.

William McNair Award: P Caldwell, York.

J G C Phillips, QC, Award: K Magill, Kent.

Sir Roy Wilson Award: N Smith, Leeds Metro.

Sir Raymond Phillips MC Award: A Dean, Gonville & Caius, Cambridge.

Rodney Bax Award: D O'Callaghan, Exeter.

Sir Dingle Foot, QC, Awards: J Dykers, Balliol, Oxford; J Dixon, Essex.

Weinstock Award: M Hancock, Open.

Bird & Bird Award: J St Ville, Cambridge.

Ede and Ravenscroft Prize: S Kelly, Queens', Cambridge.

Special Award: G Pons, Kent.

Junior Scholarships and Awards 1995

Prince of Wales Scholarships:

A Ayres, University, Oxford; G Branston, Queens', Cambridge; L Evans, Emmanuel, Cambridge; C Gibaud, Capetown; M Gilmore, Newnham, Cambridge; R Hill, Gonville and Caius, Cambridge; N Jacobs, Magdalen, Oxford; T Kenefick, St Catharine's, Cambridge; A O'Connor, St Catharine's, Cambridge; J Povey, Cardiff; R Singh, Trinity Hall, Cambridge; D Stacey, Magdalen, Oxford.

Bacon Scholarship: Sharland, Queen Mary & Westfield Coll, London

Birkenhead Scholarship: S Jobanputra, Magdalen Coll, Oxford.

Lord Justice Holkers: B Bowden, St Edmund Hall, Oxford; T Green, Magdalen, Oxford; D Linton, Girton, Cambridge; A Oakley, Edinburgh; L Parsons, Trinity, Oxford; S Rahman, Birmingham; M Rees, Nottingham Trent; A Weir, St Edmund Hall, Oxford.

Uthwatt Scholarship: R Freeland, University Coll, London.

Holt Scholarship: M Taylor, Selwyn, Cambridge

Wilfred Watson Scholarships: M Ashcroft, Magdalen, Oxford; I Goldsack, Brasenose, Oxford.

Steen Scholarship: H Edwards, Warwick.

William Shaw Scholarship: J Hallam, Corpus Christi, Cambridge.

Albion Richardson Scholarship: F Parks, Durham.

Goldie Scholarship: J Mortimer, Durham.

Gerz Scholarship: S Williams, Jesus, Oxford.

Dingle Foot Scholarship: J Knight, Exeter.

Cynthia Terry Scholarship: O Ward, Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

Gerald Moody Scholarship: A Robertson, Sussex.

Edmund Davies Scholarship: C Pearson, York.

Additional junior awards

D Bromilow, Robinson, Cambridge; T Collingwood, Magdalen, Oxford; A Corrigan, Edinburgh; F Currie, Greyfriars, Oxford; H Daley, Trinity, Cambridge; N Griffin, University, London; W Harris, Queen's, Oxford; V Milner, Girton, Cambridge; E Metcalf, Bristol; L Taylor, Brasenose, Oxford; N Wylie, Manchester.

Inn Admission Fees

C Bramwell, Lancaster; S Browne, South Bank; V Bul, Essex; E Goodall, Liverpool John Moores.

David Karmel entrance awards:

A George, St Catherine's, Oxford; J Adkin, Balliol, Oxford; E Penman, Jesus, Cambridge; A Blake, Worcester, Oxford; N Rogers, Edinburgh; E Grist, Peterhouse, Cambridge; A Heath, Manchester Poly; K Ahmad, Royal Holloway, London; M Culling, QMC, London; N Jones, Balliol, Oxford; S Leene, Leeds; S Warren, Cardiff; F Harold, Durham; P Dahlsen, Thames Valley; H Ali, Liverpool John Moores; M Gray, Liverpool John Moores; R Inyundo, Liverpool; C Morland, Bradford; A Western, Liverpool; D Wooldridge, Birmingham.

Church appointments

The Rev John Austerberry, Assistant Chaplain, Withington Hospital: to be whole-time Church of England Chaplain at Tameside General Hospital, Manchester (Manchester).

The Rev John Baxendale, Assistant Curate, St Michael, Dalston w Cumdivock, Raughton Head, Gatesbill and Wreay (Carlisle): to be Priest-in-charge, St Paul, Monton (Manchester).

The Rev Martin Clarke, Rector, Romsley (Worcester): to be Priest-in-charge, Walsham-le-Willows and Finningham w Westhorpe (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev Lynne Connolly, Assistant Curate, St John the Evangelist, Hurst, Ashton under Lyne: to be Rector, St Nicholas, Burnage (Manchester).

The Rev Robert Cotton, Priest-in-charge, St Paul, East Molesey: to be Rector, Holy Trinity w St Mary, Guildford (Guildford).

The Rev Sara Goatcher, Honorary Curate, Emmanuel, Croydon: to be Rector, St Nicholas, Sutton (Southwark).

The Rev Margaret Hodson, Curate, St John the Evangelist, Old Trafford: to be Priest-in-charge, St Barnabas, Shore and St James, Calderbrook (Manchester).

The Rev Benjamin Hopkinson, Rector, Whitby: to be Vicar, Stainton-in-Cleveland and Priest-in-charge, Hilton-in-Cleveland, and Chaplain to the Cleveland Constabulary (York).

The Rev Alan Horton, Curate, Christ Church, Bexleyheath: to be Priest-in-charge, St Augustine, Slade Green (Rochester).

The Rev Frank Hung, Vicar, St James, Hatcham: to be Chaplain, Goldsmiths College (Southwark).

Nature notes



The magpie

IN THE short days, birds spend most of their time looking for food. Species that are singing, such as robins and song-thrushes, are heard mostly before dawn, when it is not yet light enough to start foraging. Some song-thrushes are singing at five in the morning. In winter, magpies feed mainly on the ground, walking along and nodding their heads vigorously. What they are doing is holding their heads still and scrutinising the ground while they move their bodies forward, then jerking the head forward to catch up with the body and repeating the process. Wagtails, pigeons and moorhens feed in the same way.

The twigs of London plane trees are covered with dangling balls of seed, but they are not yet ripe and will only crumble and fall when the weather gets warmer. The long brown seeds, or keys, of ash trees have been coming down in showers in the wind and rain. On walnut trees, the greenish-black buds, which also have velvety hairs on them, are arranged round the twigs in a spiral. Inside, walnut twigs have hollow spaces between the membranes of pith. Moles do not hibernate, and are still throwing up lines of hillocks across lawns as they hunt for worms beneath the earth. DJM

University news

Manchester

Appointments to Chairs

Dean A. Paxson, Visiting Senior Fellow at Manchester Business School, to be Professor of Finance (part-time) at Manchester Business School and the Faculty of Business Administration.

Mark Pollicott, Reader in Mathematics at Warwick University, to be Fielden Professor of Pure Mathematics, from a date to be arranged.

David Challis, Professor of Social Work and Social Care at the University of Kent at Canterbury, to be Professor of Psychiatric Social Work and Community Care, from a date to be arranged.

Mahmoud Ezzamel, Price Waterhouse Professor of Accounting and Finance at the Manchester School of Management, UMIST, to be Professor of Accounting and Finance, from a date to be arranged.

Ronald Arthur Doney, Reader in Mathematical Statistics, to be Professor of Probability Theory in the Department of Mathematics, from a date to be arranged.

John Harold Wearden, Reader in Psychology, to be Professor of Psychology, from a date to be arranged.

Alan Jackson, Senior Lecturer in Diagnostic Radiology, to be Professor of Neuroradiology, from a date to be arranged.

Grevel Charles Gearrett Lindop, Reader in English Literature, to be Professor of Romantic and Early Victorian Studies in the Department of English Language and Literature, from a date to be arranged.

David Denison, Senior Lecturer in the Department of English Language and Literature, to be Professor of English Linguistics in the Department of English Language and Literature, from a date to be arranged.

Donald George Scragg, Reader in English Language and Director of the Manchester Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies, to be Professor of Anglo-Saxon Studies in the Department of English Language and Literature, from a date to be arranged.

Alan Cruttenden, Reader in Phonetics, to be Professor of Phonetics in the Department of Linguistics, from a date to be arranged.

Dr Nigel Dunn Coleman to be Honorary Visiting Professor of Microbiology in the School of Biological Science.

Dr H M Colquhoun to be Honorary Reader in Chemistry from August 1, 1995 to July 31, 1998.

Appointments

Ms Clare Elizabeth Austin, Lecturer in Cardiovascular Medicine.

Dr Carolyn A. Chew, Senior Lecturer (in lieu of Lecturer) in General Practice.

Dr W. Henry Chiu, Lecturer in Economics (in lieu of Temporary Lecturer in Economic Studies).

Mr Michael James Clarke, Lecturer in Greek and Latin.

Dr Caroline Dive, Lecturer in Molecular Pharmacology (in lieu of CRC Fellow) in the School of Biological Sciences.

Dr Gillian Sarah Greenhough, Lecturer in General Practice.

Mr John Robert Hopton, Lecturer in Applied Social Studies in the Department of Social Policy and Social Work.

Dr C.E. Hutchinson, Senior Lecturer in Diagnostic Radiology (in lieu of Clinical Research Fellow in the Department of Diagnostic Radiology).

Mr Giles Nicholas Johnson, Lecturer in Plant Physiological Ecology in the School of Biological Sciences.

Mr Martin Johnson, Senior Lecturer in Nursing.

Dr Catherine M. Kielty, Senior Lecturer in Medicine (in lieu of Research Fellow in the School of Biological Sciences).

Dr Linda S. Lashford, Senior Lecturer in Paediatric Oncology (in succession to Clinical Senior Research Fellow) in the Departments of Child Health and of Oncology.

Mr John Lumbert, Estates Officer in the Registrar and Secretary's Department (Office of the Director of Estates and Services).

Mr George Mavrotas, Lecturer in Quantitative Development Economics in the School of Economic Studies.

Mr Glyn Redworth, Lecturer in History.

Ms Elizabeth Helen Sirett, Personnel Officer (part-time) in the Registrar and Secretary's Department (Office of the Director of Personnel).

Dr Ajay Kumar Thapar, Lecturer in General Practice.

Mrs Penelope Jane Tinsdeall, Management Accountant in the Registrar and Secretary's Department (Office of the Director of Finance).

UMIST

New appointments to chairs

Hugh Willmott, Reader in Manchester School of Management, Chair in Organisational Analysis: Jill Rubery, Senior Lecturer in Manchester School of Management, Chair in Comparative Employment Systems; Michael Marchington, Senior Lecturer in Manchester School of Management, Chair in Human Resource Management; Paul Layzell, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Computation, Chair in Software Management; D. S. Broomhead, Senior Scientific Officer, Defence Research Agency, Chair in Applied Mathematics; J. W. Dold, Reader in Applied Mathematics, University of Bristol, Chair in Applied Mathematics. Thomas Millar Reader in Department of Mathematics. Chair in Astrophysics; Roger Newman, Reader in Corrosion and Protection Centre, Chair in corrosion and protection: Robin Procter, Corrosion and Protection Centre, Chair in Science and Technology; N. M. Allinson, Reader in Department of Electronics, University of York, Chair in Electronic Systems Engineering; K. W. Hoskin, Senior Lecturer in Accounting and Finance, Warwick Business School, Chair in Accounting; Ruth Itzhaki, Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences, Professional Fellowship in Optometry and Vision Sciences.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Bethlehem in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for out of you shall come a ruler to be the shepherd of my people Israel. Matthew 2 : 6 (REB)

BIRTHS

CARNEGIE - 21st December to Susie and Jocelyn, a son, Maximilian Archibald Joffryn. Many thanks to doctors and staff at AMH.

HASLEGRAVE - Owen Thomas Llewellyn. A year late, but we were a bit busy last Boxing Day. Miya!

PAYNE - Jude and Nina (née Ringsted) are delighted to announce the birth of their first child, Fraser Matthew on 19th December 1995 at RSCH Guildford.

MARRIAGES

HOLT:BENSEL - On December 22nd 1995 at Chelsea Old Town Hall, Clayton Oliver Holt, son of Mrs Florence Holt to Monika Doris Bensel, daughter of Mrs Hanna Bensel.

DEATHS

BURGESS–SMITH, Barbara (née Elrington), widow of Ralph, on 21 Dec peacefully in hospital at Newport IOW. Cremation at Whippingham Crematorium, Friday 29 Dec at 12 noon. Donations to St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London WC2.

DEATHS

CORBETT - on Friday December 22, Peacefully in hospital Susan Irene Cybil beloved wife of John and adored mother of Jim, Peter, Robert, Sara and Mary. Small funeral service for family and close friends at Cheriton Parish Church on Friday December 29 at 9.15 am followed by private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving to be announced later. Family flowers only, donations if desired to East Haig Fund and Injured Jockeys Fund c/o JNO Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester, SO23 0HU.

DEVITT - Sir Thomas Gordon Devitt Bt died peacefully on 23rd December 1995 aged 92. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends. Family flowers only. Memorial Service to be announced in the New Year.

DEATHS

O'HARA - Edward Ive (Budgie) - aged 70 of Coral Reef Club and Sandpiper Inn, Barbados on 22nd December 1995 after a short illness. Dearly loved husband of Cynthia and father of Patrick, Mark and Karen.

TAYLOR - Doris SRN (née Clarke) On 13th December 1995, peacefully in the Conquest Hospital, Hastings. Much loved wife of George and mother of Michael. Funeral service has already taken place on 21st December at Eastbourne Crematorium.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

HAYNES - Daphne, 26th December 1983. In tender loving memory always. Henry and family.

THE TIMES

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

To place your Birth, Marriage or Death Notices over the Christmas Holiday period please call during the following times:-

CLOSED:- Tuesday 27th December

The office is re-open at 9.00am on Wednesday 27th December.

Telephone 0171 782 7272

where our staff will be available to take your call.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES

SUPERB Stamp Collection: (1) State of Israel since creation: stamps + 1st-day-covers. (2) Postal documents, postal & military marks - W.W.II (H. Boutles). Tel or write: Hill Channel, BP 30, F-34700 Lodeve, France. 0033 67444130 or 68609268.

FOR SALE

MORNING SUITS
DINNER SUITS
EVENING TAIL SUITS
SURPLUS TO HIRE
LIPMAN & SONS
West End Tel 0171 240 7310
22 Charing Cross Rd WC2
City Tel 0171 623 7721
156 Fenchurch St EC3

THE TIMES - 1791-1995 other titles available. Ready for presentation - also " Sundays". Remember When. 0181-668 6383.

YORK PENNANT, slate, limestone & terracotta flagstones & floor tiles. Cobble sets, stone troughs, masonry service. Nat & internat del. Hollay Heskett 01380 860359 (Wilts)

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

COSTCUTTERS on flights & hols to Europe, USA & most destinations. Diplomat Travel Services Ltd: 0171-730 2201. ABTA 25705 IATA/ATOL 1386.

GERMANY Daily low cost flights. 0181 429 2900. Visa/Access. ABTA 90685, ATOL

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

EMBASSY FLIGHT CENTRE

Athens	£99	Orlando	£149
New York	£175	Malaga	£59
Canaries	£59	Delhi	£99
Cairo	£179	Nice	£109
Sydney	£499	Palma	£59
Faro	£59	Toronto	£179
Goa	£299	Tel Aviv	£149

ALL WORLDWIDE & EUROPEAN DEST AVAILABLE AT DISCOUNT RATE

Tel: 01273 700737

Scotland from £29 easyJet 01582 44 55 66 ATOL 4913

ALICANTE	fr. £69	FARO	fr. £59
PALMA	£59	CYPRUS	£59
CANARIES	£59	MAHON	£79
GREECE	£59	MALAGA	£59
MALTA	£69	GOA/INDIA	£299
ISRAEL	£125	ORLANDO	£199

All European & Worldwide Dest Available Winter 95/96 & Summer 96 Booking Now

VICEROY AIR INTERNATIONAL
01476 74111
ABTA E0761

VACATION TRAVEL

PRICES PP.

FARO	59	PALMA	59
MALAGA	65	GREECE	99
ALICANTE	59	MALTA	89
TENERIFE	79	TURKEY	119
LAS PALMAS	79	ISRAEL	129
LANZAROTE	79	CYPRUS	119

All Worldwide destinations avail. Winter/Summer. Also car hire & luxury cruises.

0800 371855

TRAILFINDERS

Low cost flights worldwide

AND UP TO 65% DISCOUNT ON HOTELS & CAR RENTAL

Call Trailfinders for the complete tailor-made travel service

LONDON Longhaul 0171-938 3366
Transatlantic & European 0171-937 5400
First & Business Class 0171-938 3444
BIRMINGHAM Worldwide 0121-236 1234
BRISTOL Worldwide 0117-929 9000
GLASGOW Worldwide 0141-353 2224
MANCHESTER Worldwide 0161-839 6969
First & Business Class 0161-839 3434

CAPITAL FLIGHTS

Portugal	59	USA	129
Spain	59	Canada	179
Canaries	59	Caribbean	199
Ski Flights	89	Africa	295
Greece	89	Far East	329
Cyprus	99	S.America	340
Israel	99	Australia	460

ALL EUROPEAN & WORLDWIDE DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

0171 209 4000 ATOL 0580

FLATSHARE

FLATMATES London's foremost (Est 1970) Professional flat sharing service. 0171-589 8491

GIFTS

A BIRTHDATE Newspaper. Original, Superbly presented. Freephone 0800 906609

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

PORTUGAL. All areas. Villas/apts., hotels, pousadas, golf hols, flights. Longmere Int'l. 081 686 2112. Retail agents. ABTA V6097

SHORT LETS

MARYLEBONE LANE W1 Studio flat, Free Jan 2 - Mar 4, £180 pw. Tel: 0171 935 5107

TICKETS FOR SALE

TICKETS FOR SALE

When responding to advertisements readers are advised to establish the face value and full details of tickets before entering into any commitment. Most sports tickets are subject to strict re-sale and transfer rules.

ALL TICKETS: Int. Rugby, Phantom, Rumble, Clapton, Stamps' Red. All major pop, sport & theatre. CC's accpt 0171 928 0080

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DALIP Only once in the lifetime of a soul comes a love like this. I love you, desire you and need you with all my heart, body and soul. Happy 1st Wedding Anniversary, my love. Aunjeet XXX

Dr DAVID O'CONNELL. Due to a conflagration at 41 Elysian Place, London SW3, Dr O'Connell has been unable to send Christmas cards this year, but would like to wish all his friends, colleagues and patients a more spirited but less flatulable Christmas than he.

YOUNG CHELSEA BRIDGE club and school (18-40 age group). Tel: 071-375 1666

YOUR WILL

If you are making your will please think of BLESMA. We care for all ex-service men and women who have lost limbs in the service of this country.

Enquiries to
The Chairman, British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association, c/o Midland Bank plc, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A.

ANIMALS IN NEED

Please help us give compassionate care to abused and abandoned cats and dogs and those whose owners have died or are seriously ill. Our sanctuary provides daily food bills for dogs, also a boarding service in the poorer city areas. We apply not pay.

Donations to:
WOODSIDE ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST,
Bluebridge, Plymouth PL7 5BB
(Reg Charity No 298788).

COURT AND SOCIAL PAGE

OVER THE NEW YEAR PERIOD THE FOLLOWING DEADLINES WILL APPLY:

Notices to appear on Thursday, December 28th should be received in writing by noon on Wednesday, December 27th. Notices to appear on Friday, December 29, should be received in writing by 5pm on Wednesday, December 27.

Notices to appear on Saturday, December 30; Monday, January 1; Tuesday, January 2 should be received in writing by 12 noon on Thursday, December 28.

ALL NOTICES ARE ACCEPTED SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

TEL 0171 782 7347
FAX 0171 481 9313

هكذا من الأصل

OBITUARIES

DAME NITA BARROW



Dame Nita Barrow, GCMG, Governor-General of Barbados, died on December 19 aged 79. She was born on November 15, 1916.

THE smaller eastern Caribbean islands might be thought to have some difficulty in finding a Governor-General — the ultimate constitutional arbiter — untouched by past political allegiance or by the close connections of such a small society. But this is to overlook the fact that emigration, albeit sometimes only for a period, is a fact of life in the islands, even for the professional elites. Such was the case with Dame Nita Barrow, Governor-General of Barbados from 1990. She achieved great things in the pan-Caribbean and world spheres in which she chose to operate before she turned finally to the service of Barbados, in the last decade of her life, when she was already 70.

Ruth Nita Barrow was the daughter of a Barbadian Methodist bishop. Her mother's family owned a small sugar plantation and farm in the northern parish of St Lucy. Her other relations included a cousin, Sir Hugh Springer, whom she succeeded as Governor-General, and Charles Duncan O'Neale, a doctor and pioneer of democratic politics in the 1920s. The family were renowned for their ability in their professions and their sense of public service. Errol Barrow, who died in 1987, was a younger brother. Twice Prime Minister, he brought Barbados to independence in 1966.

Nita Barrow took an entirely different route to a public career, eschewing party politics entirely. Thus it was that her appointment as Governor-General in June 1990 was enthusiastically supported on all sides in the House of Assembly.

Care for others was her main concern — she never married or had a family of her own. She was educated at St Michael's Girls' School, and in 1935 she chose nursing as her profession, doing her basic training and obtaining her SRN in Barbados. In 1941 she took the first step in what was to become a pattern in her life, when she left Barbados and went to Trinidad to train to become a registered midwife. Her travels led to an immense web of personal contacts which she assiduously cultivated, in the Caribbean, Canada, Britain and the United States.

Periods of education in Toronto, Edinburgh and at Columbia University in the United States (where she obtained a BSc in nursing in 1955), were to follow. Much of this higher education was obtained during leave periods from her nursing duties in Jamaica, where she had become a nursing instructor in 1945.

There, her responsibilities mounted: she became matron at the University College of the West Indies Hospital, and, by the mid-1950s, she was Jamaica's Principal Nursing Officer, responsible for all nursing services across the island. Her appetite for education and her industry — qualities which Barbadians pride themselves as being characteristic of the island — seemed limitless.

Her work took on an increasingly international flavour. She became nursing adviser for the Caribbean to the World Health Organisation in the 1960s. An active Christian, she served from 1971 in Geneva at the World Council of Churches, first as associate director of the Christian Medical Commission, then, from 1975 to 1980, as director.

This world perspective was reflected in her voluntary work. She served the YWCA internationally from 1965, and from 1975 to 1983 she was president of the World YWCA. For part of that time she was also president of the International Council for Adult Education.

She became passionately committed to majority rule in South Africa. In 1986 she was a member of the Commonwealth "eminent persons group" to South Africa, where her great network of contacts through education, medicine, the churches and the YWCA were invaluable. In the same year, she was appointed the Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations.

In 1980 the Queen, as Sovereign of the Order of St Andrew, Barbados's order of chivalry, created her Dame. She was created GCMG in 1990.

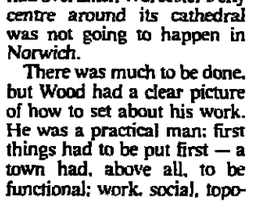
As Governor-General over the last five years she was hospitable, outgoing and unstinting of herself, attending almost any function. She lived very simply in a small section of Government House, attended by her younger sister who acted as a sort of honorary ADC.

She behaved with impeccable constitutional decorum, and this was especially appreciated by politicians of all parties in the summer of 1994. The then Prime Minister, Erskine Sandiford, lost to an opposition vote of no confidence through abstentions and defections from his own party in the House, and a general election followed. Throughout this difficult period, Nita Barrow showed the sort of stability and good sense which reminded Barbadians of the island's 355 years of parliamentary government.

Her death befitted her life of service. The day before she died, she attended the annual dinner of gazetted officers of the Royal Barbados Police Force together with the Prime Minister, Chief Justice and Attorney-General. At the reception, she remarked to ministers that she had been feeling tired, and eventually sat down. Being the last to go in, she found that she could not rise from her chair and had lost the use of her right side. She remained completely collected and in command, talking to those around her encouragingly, and asked that her doctor be called. Insisting that the dinner should continue as planned she was taken to hospital, dying the next day.

ALFRED WOOD

Alfred Wood, CBE, architect and town planner, died from a stroke on December 8 aged 69. He was born on September 8, 1926.



THE disasters of postwar town planning, in Alfred Wood's view, arose from a complete misconception of the meaning of environmental design largely brought about because those in control of it lacked either an architectural training or an aesthetic sense — sometimes both.

In consequence, town planning lost its direction: it was no longer regarded as a visual challenge, as an extension of architecture on the kind of scale known in the past. Instead, during the 1950s the urban landscape had been considered merely in abstract terms, and planning had been employed simply to compartmentalise such functions as housing, industry, education or commerce, the whole divided up with highway plans. The visual factor, and thus the human one, had become obscured.

Alfred Arden Wood was born in Harrogate and educated first at Ashville College, and afterwards at Harrogate Grammar School. He joined the Army in 1944, serving as an officer in the Tank Corps, before going on to read history at Hertford College, Oxford.

There his interest in buildings was aroused and after training to be an architect at the Leeds School of Architecture and Planning he travelled in 1952 to Sweden to work for Stockholm's city department.

A year later Wood was back in England, initially joining the Harlow Development Corporation, but soon afterwards returning to Yorkshire where he worked first in the architects department for West Riding, and then for Leeds. It was while he was in Leeds that Wood took a course in town planning, and he obtained a diploma with distinction in 1960.

During this period, which included a brief time as chief housing architect for Glasgow and two years in private practice, he gained a wide experience of building. This, together with his historical knowledge, was to become an important qualification for the job of city planning officer for Norwich, to which he was appointed in 1965.

In this post he found ample opportunity to prove that a good town planner had to be a good architect, or at least one who could distinguish between good and bad design in the work of others. Above all, here he found himself entrusted with the rewarding task of taking care of a fine old city. The terrible destruction that had overtaken Worcester's city centre around its cathedral was not going to happen in Norwich.

There was much to be done, but Wood had a clear picture of how to set about his work. He was a practical man: first things had to be put first — a town had, above all, to be functional; work, social, topographical and traffic matters had to be studied and dealt with in such a way that the final product, he would say, should be operative, yet also a place where design was predominant and surroundings an enjoyable blend of colour and form. To achieve this in Norwich, Wood pioneered the pedestrianised centre to free shopping streets of ugly, noisy, fume-laden traffic jams.

This decision created a basically peaceful framework within which detail could be concentrated on. A town planner of Wood's calibre was vital to the outcome: bad detail, whether in terms of a crude shopfront or of some brash piece of commercial infill, causes irreversible damage.

Here again, as Wood saw it, was the necessity for the chief planner to be an architect (and not a geographer or sociologist) who had the ability to accept or reject planning applications according to their quality. Wood cleared the High Street of neglect and tastelessness, bringing colour to the scene (he loved colour), and inspiring the shopkeepers with such enthusiasm that they too became involved with repairing their area. Wood received a Civic Trust Award for his achievements.

After he left Norwich in 1972 he was offered many appointments. He went to Hereford and Worcester for two years, then on to the West Midlands until 1984 as chief planner. He was already a member of the Historic Buildings Council and in 1985 headed the Historic Areas at English Heritage. He was visiting professor at Harvard and at Belgium's Leuven University, and acted as adviser to the Council of Europe in Strasburg.

Wood was appointed CBE in 1988, the year after his retirement caused by ill-health.

His wife predeceased him and he is survived by his son.

BUTTERFLY McQUEEN



Butterfly McQueen and Vivien Leigh in *Gone With the Wind*, 1939

Butterfly McQueen, actress, died on December 22 aged 84. She was born on January 8, 1911.

WHEN Butterfly McQueen was offered the chance to play Scarlett O'Hara's feather-brained maid Prissy in *Gone With the Wind* she realised it might be the making of her Hollywood career. But she also faced a personal dilemma over the choice. The part was not a particularly dignified one, and for a black actress it represented the worst of the old stereotypes: a dim-witted, perpetually weeping slave who gets slapped by the much feistier heroine.

In the event, McQueen played the role delightfully, and she was given some memorably funny lines. The best was when the long-suffering Melanie (Olivia de Havilland) is about to give birth, and Prissy admits to her mistress that she has lied about her qualifications as a midwife: "Miss Scarlett, I don't know nothin' 'bout birthin' babies!" She delivered this — and the rest of her lines — in a screechingly high-pitched voice which was once well described as sounding like "a clarinet with a cold".

Butterfly McQueen was born Thelma Lincoln McQueen, the daughter of a stevedore, in Tampa, Florida, but the family moved to Georgia when she was still a child. She discovered a taste for performing at school, where she would recite passages from the Bible. After the divorce of her parents she moved to Harlem with her mother, a housekeeper, and determined to become a nurse. On the advice of a teacher, however, she turned to the stage instead.

She made her Broadway debut in *Brother Rat* (1936), and George Abbott cast her in several shows — *Brown Sugar* and *What a Life*. She earned the nickname Butterfly after dancing as a butterfly in a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The part of Prissy was not won without a struggle. She was initially told by a talent scout that she was too chubby. She was also unhappy about being typecast as a maid, having already played a string of wide-eyed domestics. The producer of *Gone With the Wind*, David O. Selznick, was sympathetic to her obvious unhappiness during the film's shooting: "He knew it was a stupid part and I was an intelligent person."

The making of *Gone With the Wind* had been exhaustively hyped, and for the film's premiere in 1939, a million film lovers poured into Atlanta, hoping to catch a glimpse of Vivien Leigh or Clark Gable. A select audience of 2,500 attended the first night on December 15, but Butterfly McQueen was not one of them, as the theatre was a whites-only establishment.

Hollywood, however, was more welcoming and McQueen was steadily employed in films throughout the 1940s: *Cabin in the Sky* (1943), *Mildred Pierce* (1945) and *Duel in the Sun* (1946). In the early 1950s she appeared in the television comedy *Beulah*, which was ahead of its time in having a black star. But again she found herself cast as a maid.

There followed a two-decade absence from the screen, during which she lived in New York and concentrated on other interests. She did voluntary work in Harlem, and at the age of 64 graduated in political science from the City College. In the early 1970s she began to accept character roles in films once more, including *Amazing Grace* (1974) and *The Mosquito Coast* (1986). She was white-haired now, and much larger, but with the same distinctive high-pitched voice.

Her reputation, however, continued to rest on that one small role in *Gone With the Wind*, and gradually she became reconciled to the fact. She made numerous personal appearances in connection with the film. She died after suffering burns in an accident at her home in Augusta, Georgia.

She never married, but she is survived by an adopted daughter.

CANON H. E. W. TURNER

Canon H. E. W. Turner, Van Mildert Professor of Divinity, University of Durham, 1958-73, died on December 14 aged 88. He was born on January 14, 1907.



HOLDING the chair at Durham once occupied by Michael Ramsey, Hugh Turner, as he was generally known, could claim to be the heir to a distinguished intellectual tradition. In one sense, though, he was the anomaly within it: unlike many of his predecessors (including Ramsey who was appointed at the early age of 35), he was an example of insider preferment.

He held the Lightfoot professorship before he was appointed to the Van Mildert one, and had already been serving as a residentiary canon of Durham for eight years before attaining the senior divinity chair. In the circumstances, it was not surprising that, when he was appointed at the age of 51, it should have represented the culmination, rather than the launchpad, of his career.

Henry Ernest William Turner was born in Sheffield. He was educated at King Edward VII School, Sheffield, from which in 1925 he won an open scholarship to St John's College, Oxford, to read Mods and Greats. He attained a double first and went on to take another first in Theology.

Turner served his title in the Carlisle diocese in the Low Church parish of Christ Church, Cockermouth, where he met his wife. He was ordained priest in 1932 and in 1934 moved, again as a curate, to Holy Trinity, Wavertree, Liverpool. It became clear to him, and to others, that his real interest lay in academic life. He was appointed as chaplain and Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford, in 1935.

At the outbreak of war he enrolled as a chaplain in the RAF, being stationed briefly at Silloth, Cumberland, before being posted to Cairo, where he travelled widely in Egypt and North Africa. His key role was running courses for RAF ordination candidates, as well as the more routine duties of a padre.

He returned to Oxford at the end of the war to a college of a very different nature — with ex-service personnel returning to studies interrupted or delayed by the war. The achievement of which he was most proud was the creation and cataloguing of the Lincoln College library.

In 1950 Turner was invited to apply for the Lightfoot canon professorship at Durham — a second theological chair created by Ramsey in his decade there before being appointed Regius Professor at Cambridge.

The remaining 23 years of Turner's active academic life were to be spent at Durham — where, as Van Mildert Professor, he eventually became head of the theological department. It grew in academic standing and size under his leadership, and it was largely because of his initiative that theology students at Codrington College, Barbados, and Fourah Bay College, Freetown, Sierra Leone, were able to come to Durham to complete their studies for a Durham degree.

Although he had started out very much as an Evangelical, he was excited by the discussions he led between the university and Ushaw College, a Roman Catholic Senior Seminary close to Durham City. This typified his growing interest in ecumenical developments.

He was a sound rather than an original scholar, and his published works were mainly in the field of systematic theology. His best-known book — and the one that secured him his doctorate of divinity — is probably *The Pattern of Christian Truth* (1955), based on his Bampton Lectures of 1954. He also combined with Bishop Hugh Montefiore to produce *Thomas the Evangelist* (1962). He became Treasurer of the Chapter, helping to put the cathedral's finances on a secure footing, and was proud of the fact that his last months at Durham should have been spent as acting Dean during a decanal interregnum.

He was an energetic governor of Durham School and of St John's College, Durham, where he continued as a member of council long after he retired to Eskdale in Cumbria.

He is survived by his wife Constance and their two sons.

ON THIS DAY

December 26, 1910

The 1911 edition of Who's Who *was taken to task for still making "no mention whatever of Mrs. Pankhurst and her daughter, Miss Christabel Pankhurst".*

SOME BOOKS OF REFERENCE.

"DEBRETT." 1911.- The scope of this well-known work is indicated on the title-page. It contains "information concerning all persons bearing hereditary or courtesy titles, Privy Councillors, Knights, and the collateral branches of all peers and baronets." The total number of honours conferred during the year, exclusive of promotions in the various Orders, was upwards of 300; and 40 additional pages are required in the present volume in consequence. Betwen December 6, 1909, and December 5, 1910, 14 peerages (including one life peerage) were conferred; three peerages became extinct — the Avonmore Viscounty (including the Barony of Yelverton) and the Borthwick Barony; 13 names were added to the roll of baronets, while seven baronetcies expired; 14 members were sworn of the Privy Council; the names of Sir W. Crookes and Mr. Thomas Hardy were added to the Order of Merit, two members of the Order having died (Miss Nightingale and Mr. Holman Hunt); 90 new Knights were created; and 173 new Companions were nominated to the Various Orders. These facts are set forth in the preface to "Debrett," which is as full and as interesting as ever.

"WHO'S WHO," 1911.- Considering that "Who's Who" is now more than half a century old and has been growing steadily during all these years, it is a much less unwieldy volume than might have been expected. Many new names, presumably, are included every year, but the number of biographies withdrawn in consequence of the death of the subjects of them is also considerable.

Among those whose names appear in the obituary of the present volume are Björnstjerne Björnson, Lionel Brough, Tom Browne, W. P. Frith, Sir R. Giffen, W. Holman Hunt, the Bishop of Lincoln, Sir W. Q. Orchardson, Linley Sambourne, Goldwin Smith, and Mark Twain. It was unfortunate that it should have been necessary to prepare the volume before the Dissolution of Parliament. The consequence is that members who have retired from Parliament or have been defeated at the polls are still described as "M.P." Perhaps, however, this was difficult to avoid in the circumstances. There are some minor points in the arrangement of the work which are rather puzzling. Why should Lord Hardinge of Penshurst appear among the "P's," while Lord James of Hereford and Lord Curzon of Kedleston are to be found under "J" and "C" respectively? It is curious, also, that there should be still no mention whatever of Mrs. Pankhurst and her daughter, Miss Christabel Pankhurst. But when all is said, "Who's Who" is a wonderful production, and it is now almost indispensable.

"WHITAKER'S ALMANACK," 1911.- It was necessary to go to press with the new edition of "Whitaker's Almanack" before the General Election took place, and the list of the House of Commons which is printed is that of the late Parliament. It is promised, however, that a supplement will be provided, containing the new list, and this will be supplied to subscribers on application. The chief events of the reign of King Edward are presented in a chronological summary, and several useful new features are introduced.

THE TIMES

Atlases of the World

Now! No handling charges and FREE postage to all our UK customers
Offer applies United Kingdom only

The Times Atlas of the World
9th Comprehensive (De Luxe) Edn £85
7th Concise Edition £40 (from Jan 1st £45)
3rd Family Edition £17.99
Reference Edition £12.99
Compact Edition £8.99
***Mini* (Pocket)** Edition £5.99

Thematic Atlases & Histories
The Times Atlas of World History £40
Concise Edition (Paperback) £14.99
Compact Edition £9.99
The Times Atlas of Archaeology £35
The Times Atlas of the Second World War
50th Anniversary Edition £27.50
The Times Atlas of European History £25
The Times London History Atlas £22.99
The Times Illustrated World History £25
The Times Illustrated History of Europe £25

Also available

The Times 1000 1996 - Top Business Guide - £35
The Times Guide to the European Parliament £25
to the Peoples of Europe £15.99
to the Single European Market £8.99
to the New British State £16.99
to the Middle East £8.99
The Times Good University Guide 1995/6 £8.99
The Times Night Sky 1996 (Guide Booklet) £3.50

Please send cheques or postal orders (no credit cards) payable to **Akom Ltd,** 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW
Enquiries: 0181 852 4575 (24 hours)
Delivery up to 8 days (UK)

NEWS

Archbishop speaks of royal 'pain'

■ The Archbishop of Canterbury spoke of the "pain" suffered by the Prince and Princess of Wales in his Christmas sermon as the Queen led a show of family solidarity at Sandringham.

In his address to the congregation at Canterbury Cathedral Dr George Carey said: "Families have been very much in the news in recent weeks. Over the last few days the Prince and Princess of Wales, together with the children, have been at the forefront of our prayers as we have sensed afresh some of the pain they carry" ..... **Page 1**

The Queen praises Sister Ethel

■ Sister Ethel Normoyle, the Irish nun who was compared to Mother Teresa by the Queen in her Christmas broadcast for her work in South Africa's shanty towns, said: "I'm amazed and grateful and she is very kind. But I'm no saint" ..... **Page 1**

Temperatures plunge

Britain was braced for plunging temperatures today after Arctic blizzards brought a white Christmas to much of Scotland, Wales and northern England ..... **Page 1**

Pope is ill

Pope John Paul II, who is 75, was unable to complete his traditional Christmas Day greeting to the world due to ill health ..... **Page 1**

Prison row

Politicians are overly concerned with excessively tough prison regimes. Derek Lewis, the sacked head of the prison service said in an outspoken attack on the Government ..... **Page 2**

Fears for girl

Police searching for a "naive and trusting" French girl who has been missing for a week after taking a lift in a lorry said they were "deeply concerned" for her safety ..... **Page 3**

Water company crisis

Pressure is mounting for a shake-up in the boardroom of drought-struck Yorkshire Water, after a disclosure that the troubled company is seeking a new chairman ..... **Page 4**

Toad escapes again

Toad of Toad Hall and his friends from the riverbank have escaped the effects of a strict European edict which will restrict future productions of the children's pantomime ..... **Page 5**

Pinnocchio lives

More than half a century after *Pinocchio* became one of Disney's most popular films, Carlo Collodi's classic tale is being remade with a puppet that looks so real, it could almost be human ..... **Page 5**

Holiday time

The travel industry, faced with a 25 per cent drop in bookings compared with the same time last year, is trying to tempt holiday-makers to reserve their summer break immediately after Christmas ..... **Page 6**

Election cliffhanger

A photo-finish election has left Turks wondering about their future as the final results of Sunday's poll indicate a pro-Islamic party will now be the largest in parliament ..... **Page 7**

425 die in fire

The death toll in one of India's worst fire disasters rose to 425 at least half of them children aged between five and 12 ..... **Page 8**

Spy muzzled

Israeli security agents muzzled Mordechai Vanunu, convicted of spilling atomic secrets, fearing he may tell more ..... **Page 8**

Santa under guard

British soldiers across Bosnia held Christmas parties for children and in Gornji Vakuf Santa Claus arrived on a white 25-tonne Warrior armoured personnel carrier ..... **Page 9**

Father panics over 'forgotten' son

■ A forgetful motorcyclist reported that his son had fallen off the back of his bike. The man was on an 80-mile trip from Colchester in Essex to Strood in Kent to visit his daughter when he realised the 13-year-old boy was missing. He telephoned his daughter, who contacted police and hospitals. Half an hour later the boy was found never to have left home ..... **Page 5**

JOHN GILES



As temperatures plunged over Britain, Christmas Day snow covered the Hole of Horcum, a picnic spot in North Yorkshire. **Page 1**

BUSINESS

Eurotunnel: The company is to issue a statement next month concerning the crucial negotiations with its bankers. It is expected that Eurotunnel will press for a reduction in its gross interest rate from around 9.5 per cent to 7 per cent ..... **Page 36**

Restaurant deal: Forte has agreed to sell its restaurants to Whitbread in a deal intended to scupper Granada's £3.3 billion bid for the hotels chain. The deal could lead to shareholders each being paid a special dividend ..... **Page 36**

Cost of luxury: The cost of living really well is rising at five times the level of inflation as fine wines, antiques, artworks and supercars all rise in price, says Anthony Harris ..... **Page 34**

ARTS

Great turkeys: Our series recalling some of the great disasters of stage and screen opens with Benedict Nightingale on Twang!!, Lionel Bart's ill-fated musical about Robin Hood ..... **Page 30**

Top shows: Tired of all the turkey and holiday television. Our guide to the very best of the stage shows and films on around the country this week will give you plenty of ideas ..... **Page 31**

Oratorio choice: John Eliot Gardiner's superb recording of Bach's Christmas Oratorio is our choice for Building a Library this week ..... **Page 30**

Capital project: At the Crafts Council, an absolutely superb collection of fine lettering has gone on show ..... **Page 30**

FEATURES

Lofty living: How do you prevent tall people, such as the 7ft 6¾in Chris Greener, from reaching such awkward heights? ..... **Page 10**

Snore chorus: Dr Thomas Stuttaford on why those who snore loudly are associated with increased incidence of heart disease and inattentive driving ..... **Page 10**

Saintly widow . . . bad single mother? Nigella Lawson on the discrepancy in the approach to mothers without husbands ..... **Page 11**

People of the Year: From Trader of the Year (Nick Leeson) to the No Way To Treat A Lady award (Hugh Grant), *Times* writers pick winners and losers of 1995 ..... **Pages 12, 13**

Sales talk: The pick of the January sales bargains in shops nationwide ..... **Pages 28, 29**

SPORT

Fourth Test: Paul Adams, 18, is set to become the youngest man to play Test cricket for South Africa, when the Test against England starts today. England are expected to play only four bowlers ..... **Page 21**

Rugby union: Bath's coach and director of rugby are to meet Graeme West, one of rugby league's leading coaches to discuss tactics ..... **Page 23**

Racing: If the flying grey, One Man, romps home in the King George VI Tripleprint Chase at Kempton Park this afternoon, the echoes of his victory will reverberate beyond the narrow confines of National Hunt racing ..... **Page 19**

Football: Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle United manager, takes his table-topping team to face Manchester United, in a match which could confirm a shift in the balance of power ..... **Page 20**

Cricket: The International Cricket Council cleared Sri Lanka of ball-tampering during the first Test against Australia. ICC also criticised the umpires and expressed "sincere regrets" ..... **Page 21**

American football: The Atlanta Falcons captured the principal honours during the closing weekend of the regular NFL season with their improbable victory over the reigning champions, the San Francisco 49ers ..... **Page 26**

LOTTERY NUMBERS

6, 11, 34, 40, 47, 49. Bonus: 16.

COMMENT

Preview: Derek Jacobi is back as Ellis Peters's medieval detective Cadfael (ITV, 8.30pm) **Review:** Lynne Truss on the Christmas plums ..... **Page 35**

Fish and folly

The turkey was carved joyfully across Britain yesterday. Today is a good day to talk, less festively, about fish ..... **Page 15**

Bullish Blair

Not only is Tony Blair predicted to move house in October but a powerful solar eclipse on the 12th signals a change in job ..... **Page 15**

Sister Ethel

The Queen chose wisely her moment to acknowledge the sacrifice of those who work and care for others with no thought of reward or their own welfare ..... **Page 15**

LIBBY PURVES

I suppose I hoped for the Princess of Wales to have an overnight visitation by three ghosts led by Lord St John of Fawsley in a luminous periwig, and to wake on Christmas morning like Scrooge ..... **Page 14**

NICHOLAS BUDGEN

Many people opposed to hunting feel as I feel about smoking. They do not like it but they do not want to stop others ..... **Page 14**

MATTHEW PARRIS

The truth about the past is more vivid in a thousand little details than in formal history ..... **Page 14**

OBITUARIES

Dame Nita Barrow, Governor-General of Barbados; **Alfred Wood**, architect; **Butterfly McQueen**, actress; **Canon H. E. W. Turner** ..... **Page 17**

LETTERS

Divorce and homelessness; lottery; opera amplification; fisheries deal ..... **Page 15**

THE WORKERS

It is a scandal that our Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is still enforcing the petty Brussels laws while the rest of Europe turns a blind eye — *Sunday Express*

The European Commission, having sunk our fishing industry, has now slapped VAT on mistletoe. The first tax on kissing. Smackers for a smacker — *The Mail on Sunday*

TOMORROW



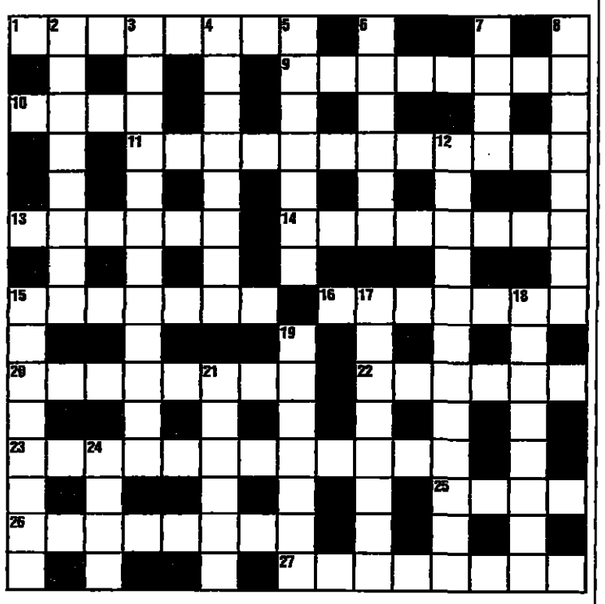
IN THE TIMES

■ SALES Fashion editor Iain R. Webb on how to get the best sales bargains



■ £6 MILLION DOLLAR PROPERTY
The ultimate bachelor pad is up for sale. Rachel Kelly on a hidden refurbished mansion

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,047



ACROSS

1 Stupid person using bar, ended with weights in the gym (4-4).
9 English girl scoffed about university grade (8).
10 A belligerent American heading ring in speculative dealing (4).
11 The university sportsman's striking first, unexpectedly (3,2,3,4).
13 Tailless deer loves woody grass (6).
14 Some rags transformed into flimsy material (8).
15 Birds fed by small number of Italian citizens (7).
16 Decline extremely tatty church artwork (7).
20 Funny old shape for a liliaceous plant (8).
22 Like some music containing runs, not extravagant (6).
23 Daily meets mail suitor in "The Plough" (8,4).
25 Greek god once grievously rejected (4).
26 Outline for players arranged in a score (8).
27 On the whole, accepts keys with humility (8).

DOWN

2 Pig, perhaps, departed after disposing of ends of truffle? (8).
3 Close relative killing trade unionist (5-7).
4 Feelings of opposing players about formal proposal (8).
5 Plant material found in a cigarette, in general (7).
6 It excites pity in group at hospital (6).
7 Shot, heard to yell thus in pain (4).
8 Investigation concerning origins of stress endangering bridge (8).
12 Bragging about Tyneside is new boss's fault (12).
15 City is enthralled by lightweight classical style (8).
17 Puffed-up journalist keeps up fashionable accommodation (8).
18 Drawing in fish caught endlessly on a line (8).
19 May possibly flourish — whether or not sons are included (7).
21 It's dull being back in the outskirts of Derby (6).
24 Issue statement a churchman follows up (4).

Times Two Crossword, page 36

KNOCKANDO

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,046 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky and a fine leather credit card wallet.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: Jersey, 10C (50F); lowest day max: Spadeadam, Cumbria, -2C (28F); highest rainfall: Stornoway, Hebrides, 0.85in; highest sunshine: Belfast, 5.2hr.

FORECAST

☐ **General:** arctic air will cover the whole of the United Kingdom. England and Wales will have a cold, mainly dry day with sunny spells. In places the ground frost will not thaw. East Anglia and northeast England, however, will have snow showers. Snowdonia and the most western parts of Wales will also have isolated wintry showers.

Scotland and Northern Ireland can expect some heavy snowfalls at times, especially in the Highlands. Southern parts of Scotland and the Province will have isolated flurries and some sunny spells.

☐ **London, SE, Central S, SW, Central N England, Midlands, Channel Isles:** mainly dry and sunny; brief wintry showers. Wind north to northwest, fresh becoming light. Very cold in the wind. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **E Anglia, E, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** snow showers, especially north-facing coasts. Sunny spells inland. Mainly dry by midnight. Wind northwest fresh becoming light. Cold. Max 3C (37F).

☐ **Wales, N Ireland:** sleet and snow showers, mainly north facing coasts. Sunny spells in south. Wind north to northwest light. Cold. Max 3C (37F).

☐ **NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll:** some sunshine and isolated snow flurries. Wind northwest light to moderate. Cold. Max 1C (34F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** snow showers, prolonged at times. Occasional bright spells. Wind north fresh becoming moderate. Cold. Max 1C (34F).

☐ **Outlook:** cold with some sunshine. Snow showers in the north and the east.

AROUND BRITAIN

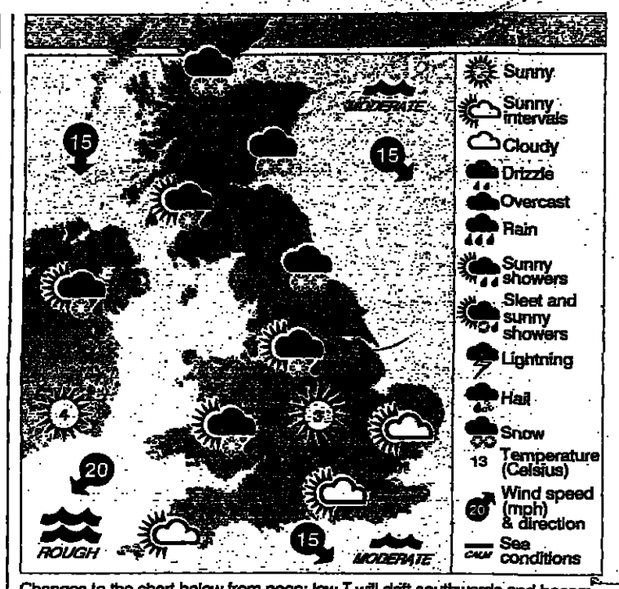
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	3.3	0.02	5	41	b	Littlehmptn	-	0.54	7	45	r
Anglesey	0.7	0.29	4	39	c	Liverpool	-	0.15	4	39	r
Aspatria	0.3	0.04	3	37	r	London	-	0.59	7	45	r
Avemore	3.8	-	1	34	s	Lowestoft	-	0.25	6	43	r
Belfast		0.05	4	39	r	Manchester	-	0.22	4	39	r
Birmingham		0.30	3	37	sn	Margate	-	0.39	7	45	r
Bognor R		0.39	7	45	r	Minehead	-	0.84	5	41	r
Bournem'th		0.14	7	45	r	Morecambe	-	0.01	4	39	r
Bristol		0.50	5	41	r	Newcastle	0.3	0.17	5	41	sl
Buxton		0.34	2	36	sn	Newquay	X				
Cardiff		0.65	5	41	r	Norwich	-	0.24	5	41	r
Clacton		0.43	6	43	r	Nottingham	X				
Cleethorpes	X					Oxford	-	0.76	4	39	r
Colwyn Bay		0.54	4	39	r	Penzance	1.8	0.13	13	55	b
Cromer		0.31	5	41	sh	Plymouth	X				
Doncaster	X					Poole	-	0.25	7	45	r
Dunbar	X					Prestatyn	X	0.49	4	39	c
Eastbourne		0.20	9	48	r	Ross-o-wye	-	0.35	7	45	r
Edinburgh	3.4	0.28	6	43	b	Ryde	X				
Eskdalemuir	0.5	0.13	0	32	sn	Salcombe	X				
Exmouth	0.1	0.58	9	48	sh	Sandown	-	0.28	7	45	r
Falmouth	0.7	0.41	13	55	c	Saunin Snd	1.0	0.33	11	52	c
Fishguard		0.14	5	41	c	Scarboro'	-	0.02	5	41	c
Folkestone		0.14	7	45	r	Shanklin	-	0.31	7	45	r
Glasgow	3.4	0.21	3	37	sl	Shrewsbury	-	0.84	3	37	sn
Guernsey		0.70	13	55	r	Skegness	-	0.20	5	41	sh
Hastings		0.15	7	45	r	Southend	X				
Hayling I.		0.40	7	45	sh	Southport	-	0.10	4	39	c
Herne Bay	X					Southsea	-	0.25	8	48	r
Hove	X					Stornoway	2.3	0.02	5	41	b
Hunstanton	-	0.59	7	45	r	Swanage	-	0.28	7	45	r
Ilfracombe	X					Teignmouth	0.2	0.63	12	54	sh
Isle of Man	-	0.17	5	41	r	Tiree	3.2	0.04	5	41	s
Jersey	0.6	0.27	13	55	sh	Torquay	0.4	0.57	12	54	c
Kinloss	4.0	-	1	34	s	Tynemouth	-	0.10	5	41	r
Leeds		0.09	3	37	sn	Ventnor	-	0.24	7	45	r
Lerwick		0.38	0	32	sn	Weymouth	-	0.11	7	45	d
Leuchars	3.6	0.12	5	41	sn	These are Sunday's figures					

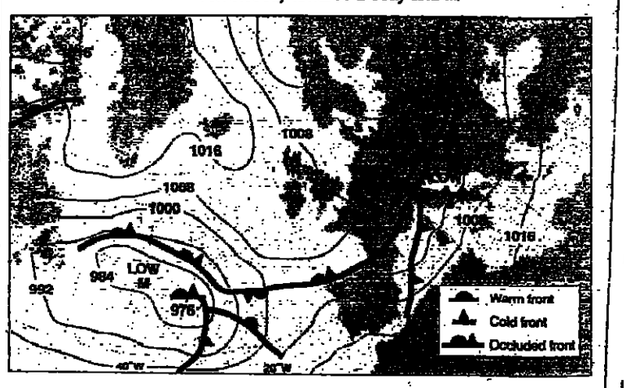
ABROAD

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

Ajaccio	15	59	r	Corfu	18	64	f	Madrid	15	59	c
Akrotiri	16	61	c	C'phagn	-4	25	f	Majorca	21	70	f
Alex'dria	19	66	f	Dublin	1	34	s	Malaga	21	70	f
Algiers	23	73	s	Dubrovnik	14	57	r	Malta	18	64	s
Amst'dm	0	32	fg	Faro	18	64	f	Melb'rne	16	61	f
Athens	18	64	s	Florence	16	61	f	Miami	13	55	f
B Aires	29	84	f	Frankfurt	3	37	c	Milan	7	45	c
Bahrain	15	59	f	Funchal	21	70	f	Montreal	-5	23	X
Bangkok	29	84	s	Geneva	12	54	c	Moscow	-15	5	s
Barbados	27	81	s	Gibraltar	18	64	f	Munich	6	43	r
Barcelona	20	68	f	Helsinki	-14	7	c	N Delhi	19	66	s
Beirut	17	63	f	Hong K	19	66	s	N York	1	34	c
Belgrade	17	63	r	Innsbruck	6	43	c	Nairobi	26	79	f
Berlin	0	32	sn	Istanbul	13	55	f	Naples	16	61	r
Bermuda	16	61	f	Jeddah	25	77	s	Nice	17	63	f
Biarritz	14	57	d	Jo'burg	22	72	f	Oslo	-13	9	f
Bombay	15	59	c	Karachi	X			Paris	6	43	f
Brussels	2	36	s	L Angels	12	54	c	Peking	-1	30	s
Budapst	3	37	r	L Palmas	21	70	s	Perth	26	79	f
Cairo	19	66	f	Le Tquet	4	39	f	Prague	0	32	d
Cape Tn	22	72	c	Lisbon	17	63	r	Reykjavik	-9	16	f
Ch'church	21	70	s	Locarno	9	48	X	Rhodes	18	64	f
Chicago	-3	27	c	Luxembg	2	36	c	Rio de J	29	84	f
Cologne	0	32	c	Luxor	23	73	s	Riyadh	13	56	s
								Rome	18	64	c
								S Fr'isco	10	50	f
								S Paulo	28	82	f
								Salzburg	6	43	r
								Santiago	30	86	s
								Seoul	-4	25	s
								Sing'por	28	82	f
								St'kholm	-17	1	s
								Strasb'rg	5	41	c
								Sydney	18	64	f
								Tangier	18	64	c
								Tel Aviv	18	64	c
								Tenerife	22	72	c
								Tokyo	5	41	s
								Toronto	-4	25	c
								Tunis	24	75	s
								Valencia	21	70	f
								Vanc'ver	1	34	c
								Venice	9	48	d
								Vienna	3	37	r
								Warsaw	-3	27	s
								Wash'ton	2	36	f
								Wel'ngton	18	64	s
								Zurich	5	41	r



Changes to the chart below from noon: low T will drift southwards and become indistinct. Low A will edge southwestwards towards Corsica and fill slowly. Low M will track steadily towards Biscay and fill



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4.26	7.21	4.59	7.38	Leith	5.27	5.65	5.46	5.66
Aberdeen	4.15	4.05	4.18	4.46	Liverpool	1.50	9.56	2.11	9.70
Avonmouth	10.07	13.62	10.31	12.99	Lowestoft	--	--	0.40	2.42
Belfast	1.51	3.38	2.07	3.60	Margate	2.31	4.88	3.09	4.79
Cardiff	9.57	11.97	10.18	11.57	Milford Haven	9.08	7.26	9.33	6.78
Devonport	8.47	5.69	9.15	5.32	Newquay	7.52	6.91	8.20	6.49
Dover	1.33	6.87	1.59	6.57	Oban	8.30	4.01	8.40	3.58
Dublin	2.21	4.15	2.34	4.42	Penzance	7.30	5.63	7.55	5.22
Falmouth	8.05	5.22	8.33	4.76	Portland	9.31	2.16	9.57	1.87
Glasgow	3.26	4.69	3.50	4.75	Portsmouth	2.05	4.94	2.20	4.78
Harwich	2.22	4.06	2.53	4.13	Shoreham	1.55	6.50	2.14	6.28
Holyhead	0.59	5.57	1.15	5.87	Southampton	1.22	4.68	1.39	4.61
Hull	9.07	7.43	9.18	7.76	Swansea	9.18	9.76	9.37	9.30
Ilfracombe	8.51	9.67	9.13	9.35	Tees	6.41	5.39	6.51	5.49
King's Lynn	8.58	6.70	9.15	6.97	W'ton-on-Nze	2.21	4.30	2.55	4.5

Crown copyright reserved. All tide times are GMT

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 8.06 am
Sun sets: 3.56 pm
Moon sets 10.05 pm
Moon rises 10.36 am

London 3.56 pm to 8.06 am
Bristol 4.06 pm to 8.15 am
Edinburgh 3.43 pm to 8.44 am
Manchester 3.54 pm to 8.25 am
Penzance 4.25 pm to 8.21 am

First quarter December 28

©TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1995. Published and printed by Times Newspapers Ltd at 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 0171-782 5000 and at Knowsley Park Industrial Estate, Killing Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9YN, telephone 0151-546 2000. Tuesday, December 26, 1995. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.